

UPBEAT MESSAGE FOR BUSINESSES

Report by Sue Austin

A BUSINESS leader has this week sounded an upbeat message for Oswestry's economic future as key projects enter vital stages.

As plans for an Innovation Park on the edge of the town enter a new phase, those behind the Oswestry Business Improvement District (BID) scheme have announced the launch of a website and drop-in meetings.

And the town's chamber of commerce has announced a new system of working to ensure the body can continue to play a vital role.

Oswestry Innovation Park, to be developed on land off the Mile End roundabout, is a key feature of Shropshire Council's draft economic growth strategy.

Consultation closed on the strategy last week and feedback received will be used to develop a final strategy and development of an action plan which aims to bring thousands of jobs and homes to Shropshire.

Innovation

Ian Follington, the new chairman of the BID project, said the Innovation Park could only be good for Oswestry. He said: "It would be part of the positivity. We would very much like to see it go ahead as jobs and the arrival of new businesses, combined with skills training and education, can only help with the investment in the town and help existing businesses.

"A rising tide lifts ships and we believe the tide is rising for Oswestry."

Mr Follington said the BID project had now entered a vital stage too. Oswestry will become a Business Improvement District if local firms vote for the move later this year. Gaining BID status would see businesses paying an extra levy on their rates and that money would be used to improve the town and potentially draw down other funding.

Mr Follington, who was elected as BID chairman last week, said: "We are very grateful for the support of Oswestry Town Council and Shropshire Council and things are looking very positive. Oswestry has a lot of different people and organisations doing lots of rowing in different boats at the moment. If we could get them all into the same boat, just think how fast we could row."

The first BID drop-in meeting will be held at Momentum Wines on Oswestry Industrial Estate on May 19 with the second on May 22 at a venue to be confirmed. The new website can be found at www.oswestry4bid.co.uk

Meanwhile, Oswestry Chamber of Commerce has revamped its organisation. Seven business bosses have been elected to the body's executive group. Given the extensive combined business and administrative skills of the executive, coupled with executive members' own business commitments, it was agreed that the role of chair would rotate between each executive member on a monthly basis.

Shout if you want another town half marathon!



Runners warm up ahead of Oswestry's first ever half marathon on Sunday which saw 1,000 people take part. Photo: Tim Sturgess.

OSWESTRY staged its first ever half marathon on Sunday – and organisers have already revealed plans for it to become an annual fixture on Shropshire's sporting calendar.

One thousand people took part in the inaugural event, starting from the British Ironwork Centre at Aston before making their way through the town.

Shropshire's Knife Angel sculpture will be the driving force of next year's Oswestry Half Marathon, organisers have revealed. Clive Knowles of the British Ironwork Centre says next year's medals for runners will be based on the Knife Angel.

The Knife Angel is a huge sculpture created at the British Ironwork Centre and made up of thousands of knives, all handed

in through police amnesties. This year's first Oswestry Half Marathon saw the Spoon Gorilla, also created at the centre, at the heart of the event. Giant gorilla statues were used as mile-markers while runners received gorilla shaped medals.

But next year's event will focus on the Knife Angel's core message of anti-violence and anti-hate.

Mr Knowles said: "This weekend's event was just amazing. It was absolutely incredible to see all the runners take part to raise money for charity. They were a total inspiration and it was great to see so many people turn out to cheer the runners on. Next year I want to see more of that."

"I also want to bring as much theatre and

drama to the event as possible, Oswestry might not be the capital of Shropshire but it will certainly be the most interesting town that's for sure."

Mr Knowles said there would be more marshals at next year's event to avoid problems with cars ignoring road closure signs and driving through the race route.

People took to social media to warn of cars "weaving in and out of runners" on the Cabin Lane section of the route.

Mr Knowles said: "Moving forward we will get more marshals and stewards on board for next year's event, and ensure they are heavily reinforced to prevent any problems like the ones encountered at the weekend."

● Hit – See Pages 24 & 25

POLICE

Large drugs factory housing 950 plants uncovered in raid

A LARGE cannabis factory with more than 950 plants inside it was uncovered by police in a raid.

Police have revealed that a visit by an officer to a suspect isolated property in Foel, near Welshpool, over the weekend revealed a large-scale cannabis factory.

The factory was housing 969 cannabis plants of varying stages of growth as well as extensive heating and lighting systems, police said.

Officers said it was found that electricity had also been abstracted illegally.

Although officers have provided no figure for the street value of the drugs, they say the seizure is "suspected to be worth a significant amount of money".

No details on arrests have been released by police yet.

PCSO Richard Waldron said: "Cannabis farms fund the lifestyles of criminals and can have a damaging effect on the community they are located in."

"The growing of cannabis can pose a significant fire hazard due to the methods used by those whose only interest is to make money. Nobody wants to live next door to a cannabis farm and we would ask that if you believe a property is being used for this reason please tell us so we can take positive actions and find those responsible."

Anyone with any information can contact Dyfed-Powys Police on 101 or Crime-stoppers anonymously, on 0800 555111.

CRIME

Cigarettes stolen in shop break-in

THREE men stole about £2,000 worth of cigarettes after raiding a village shop.

Police were called to the break-in at the Costcutter store in Guilsfield where the men had forced their way in before targeting the cigarette stand and fleeing. The theft happened on Tuesday last week.

Sharon Reynolds, a spokeswoman for Dyfed-Powys Police, said: "Officers attended the scene, and extensive inquiries were conducted overnight. A large quantity of tobacco products were removed from the store. Three men are believed to have left the scene in what is described as a small blue hatchback-type car."

INSIDE

College shows off its true style



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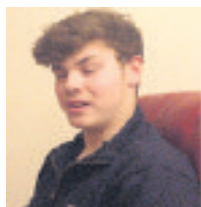
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Petition to halt sell-off is launched

A PETITION has been set up opposing any move to sell off council housing.

It comes as options for the future of more than 4,000 Shropshire Council owned properties are being considered by consultants.

It is understood that one of the options being examined is the sale of the homes, which are mainly in Oswestry and Bridgnorth. Shropshire Council's leader Malcolm Pate has insisted that nothing has been decided over the future of the homes, and said the review is being carried out to ensure any decision is taken with the best possible evidence.

Oswestry resident Nikki Hughes, who has set up the petition and campaign group Hands Off Oswestry's Council Homes (HOOCH), said any sale of council housing would be "short-sighted".

She said: "Plans to sell off Oswestry's council houses were voted against 10 years ago. Our attitude to this has not changed. Oswestry needs more social housing, not less.

"The council are short of money and the sale of these homes would be a huge boost to the accounts. The problem is, when that money runs out, they will have sold off a huge chunk of their income/revenue."

The petition can be found at you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/hands-off-oswestry-s-council-homes

End of an era as building is sold

IT'S the end of an era as the building that housed a town's social club for nearly 50 years has sold for £80,000.

Welshpool Social Club, which opened in the 1960s and closed in 2016, was a popular entertainment venue in the town.

It was sold off at auction last week by estate agents and property surveyors, Morris Marshall and Poole (MMP), with the building's guide price met.

The building off Brook Street contains a large bar, function room with stage, snooker room, cellar and parking. Rob Hudson, a partner at MMP, said: "The social club was a hive of activity in the town for nearly 50 years. The sale of the property provides an opportunity for someone to consider a commercial business at the site or to seek planning permission for change of use."

Road upgrade needed, traveller site appeal told

Report by Naomi Penrose

MAJOR improvements need to be made to a "dangerous" road near to a proposed travellers' site, residents have said.

The controversial plans for a travellers' site next to the Halton roundabout at Chirk were discussed at a planning appeal.

The planning application was originally lodged by Mary Berry in 2015 to use the land adjacent to the bungalow on Old Black Park Road to provide seven traveller pitches.

But the proposals have been met with strong opposition from residents and councillors.

Mrs Berry is a member of the Berry family who already have a relationship within the local community, having been located in the Wrexham and Shropshire areas for a number of years.

The application had been refused by Wrexham County Borough Council on the grounds of vehicular access, highway safety and visibility.

Highways consultant Jeremy Hurlstone, representing Mrs Berry, said if permission for the site was granted, there could be the potential for 50 to 70 additional vehicular movements per day.

Local resident John McMaran, who lives near to the proposed site, told the appeal at Wrexham Memorial: "This road was not meant for the heavy traffic it gets, we need improvements and major money spent by the council to improve safety on this road. It needs a footpath.

"Before any more planning applications, it needs major improvements doing because it's dangerous as it is."

He said the road was also used as a "rat run" to get to McDonald's in Chirk.

Councillor Terry Evans also raised concerns about the potential site occupants' human rights, as the site was located so close to the council's highways depot, where the council's salt is stored for gritting routes during the winter months.

He said: "From a human rights perspective, the salt depot works 24 hours a day during the winter, and when the buckets on the vehicles hit the road, they're loud and will keep occupants awake at night."

Following the appeal hearing, planning inspector Melissa Hall will consider all the evidence and come back with a decision in due course.

Alert is issued over bogus charity pair



CCTV images released by West Mercia Police of the bogus charity collectors

BOGUS charity collectors have been spotted in Oswestry and police are warning people to stay on their guard.

West Mercia Police released CCTV of two suspects following an appeal for information.

It comes after a number of reports of members of the public being approached by two women collecting for either a deaf or disability charity.

Police say their main aim is to distract potential victims whilst money is taken from either their purse or wallet.

One report was made on April

21 when a woman in her 70s and a friend were approached by the two women.

The incident took place around 3.40pm on Bailey Street, in Oswestry. The women said they were collecting money for a hearing aid charity, but the elderly lady refused to give any money. She was then asked for her signature and proof of identification.

It was not until later that the victim noticed money had been taken from her purse.

Police have released CCTV images of two women they wish to speak to, who may have vital information

that can help their investigations. Detective Constable Dan Griffiths said: "We are keen to speak to anyone who recognises either of the women in the CCTV image.

"This was a distraction technique theft and it's quite a malicious one, as it preys on people's vulnerabilities and generosity for those in need.

"The message is to be vigilant at all times and not leave valuables on show.

"If anyone has information please contact us on 101."

West Mercia Police said similar incidents also happened recently in Worcestershire.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Time to go to polls and have your say

VOTERS in the Oswestry and Welshpool areas are going to the polls today (Thursday) in local elections.

Seats on Welshpool Town Council, Oswestry Town Council, Shropshire Council and Powys County Council are all up for grabs. And seats on many parish and community councils are also set to be filled at the election. While some councils will welcome many new faces, others will be saying farewell to some long-standing councillors who have decided not to stand for election again.

Candidates may represent a political party or they may be independent but all successful candidates will be elected by their local community. The polls open at 7am today and close at 10pm.

See next week's Chronicle for a round-up of the election results.

Fundraiser will help out hospice

AN evening of light entertainment will be held at the Spring Lamb in Oswestry at 7.45pm on May 13.

The event has been organised by Enid Thomas to raise money for Severn Hospice.

Mrs Thomas has been for years the driving force in raising money for worthy causes, and in the past has raised over £35,000 for Marie Curie.

The evening will be bi-lingual in English and Welsh, and entertainment will be provided by duo, Gwyn and Nan, supported by comedian John Sellers. Tickets cost £12 which include hot food.

The tickets and more information are available from Mrs Thomas on (01691) 654838.

Opportunities to cheer on athletes

THERE will be several car parking areas available to allow spectators to cheer on competitors in the forthcoming Montgomery Canal Triathlon.

Car parking areas along the canal available include Berriew Aqueduct, Belan Locks, Church Street car park in Welshpool, Llanymynech, Canal Central at Maesbury and Queens Head.

The triathlon takes place on Saturday. The event starts at Newtown at 8.30am and finishes at the Weston Arm, Lower Frankton.

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Peter Starbuck

Pair could meet for strike debate

ACTOR Ricky Tomlinson could go head-to-head in a televised debate with a businessman over the Shropshire building strikes.

The Brookside and Royle Family star was jailed for two years after he was found guilty of conspiracy to intimidate while picketing in Shropshire in 1972.

At a meeting in Oswestry last month as part of Mr Tomlinson's

campaign to clear his name and that of fellow prisoner, Des Warren, he made claims about Oswestry businessman Dr Peter Starbuck, who at the time of the strikes was managing a building firm in the county.

Dr Starbuck was a prosecution witness in the trial that saw Mr Tomlinson convicted. During his Oswestry visit Mr Tomlinson brandished a document which he alleged

shows that Mr Starbuck said beer was loaded onto the bus travelling from Oswestry to building sites in Shrewsbury. He challenged Dr Starbuck, who has a doctorate on management, to meet him face-to-face.

Dr Starbuck has since denied Mr Tomlinson's claims. Following the public meeting, which he was unable to attend, he says he will now speak to Mr Tomlinson in front of

television cameras. "I have carried out extensive research into the building strikes which is contained in a new book that I have written entitled 'Drucker's Cameos,'" he said. "I hope that this meeting can set the record straight. I am sure this will have a very positive outcome."

Mr Tomlinson said: "I stick by every word that I said."

Baby death anger halts health chiefs' meeting

Report by Amy Downward

A HOSPITAL board meeting descended into chaos and was halted by people protesting over maternity services at Shropshire's hospitals.

Members of the public became increasingly frustrated when they were not allowed to ask questions after an update on baby deaths in Shropshire.

A review of avoidable baby deaths linked to the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust has been ordered by Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt.

Simon Wright, hospital chief executive, has said the trust cannot comment on the matter until the review is complete. But when he explained the position to the meeting in Shrewsbury last week there were shouts of "shame" and "cover-up".

Gill George, of campaign group Shropshire Defend Our NHS, said: "It is very disappointing they would not take our questions. The review is looking at the deaths of babies which may have been avoidable."

The meeting, which resumed after a 30-minute break, heard the hospital trust has written to 3,000 mothers who are due to give birth to reassure them on safety.

In a statement Mr Wright said: "The loss of, or harm to, a baby is the most terrible event imaginable and we again apologise unreservedly to the families involved. We are committed to being candid and open about any incident in order that we might spare the families further heartache."

"We know you have a lot of questions about the independent review that NHS Improvement is leading, but if we comment now we risk prejudicing the review and we are committed to using it as a chance to make further improvements."

Among the deaths the review will be looking at is that of Ivy Morris. The four-month old from Oswestry collapsed and died following complications at birth. She died at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital in May last year after collapsing during a feed at the family home in Oswestry.

Teacher had abused before



Gordon Fleming of Park Hall, Oswestry. Photo courtesy of the BBC.

A FORMER headmaster who last week admitted abusing schoolchildren was jailed in the 1990s for similar offences, a court has heard.

Gordon Fleming, 66, of Burma Road, Park Hall, Oswestry, was told he would receive a substantial jail sentence after he admitted 24 counts of sexual assault.

The hearing at Swansea Crown Court was told the abuse took place in the 1970s and 80s.

Fleming admitted indecent assault on

24 different girls, all when they were aged under 13. The court heard Fleming was jailed for three years at Chester Crown Court in 1992 for nine charges of a similar nature while he was headmaster at a village school near Welshpool.

The charges Fleming admitted to last week relate to an earlier time when he was teaching at another primary school in North Wales.

He was remanded in custody until his next court appearance on Tuesday.



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Controversial energy park described as 'ludicrous'

Report by Sue Austin

PLANS for an energy park just off an historic drovers' road have been described as ludicrous by residents.

Renewables firm, Engena, wants to create the complex, which would include a 101-metre wind turbine and 2,500 solar panels, on a site near Oswestry's Old Racecourse at Rhydycroesau.

Dozens of people attended two meetings of Oswestry Rural Parish Council to voice their objections to the scheme.

Parish councillors agreed to call for the application to be thrown out. The plans for the Cefn y Maes Community Renewable Energy Scheme cover land on the English and Welsh border.

Officers look into series of incidents

OFFICERS are investigating a spate of thefts and criminal damage incidents that have happened in Welshpool.

Dyfed-Powys Police is appealing for information following the theft of Dewalt tools, which is believed to have happened on April 17 but was only discovered seven days later.

The theft included two torches and a laser level being taken from an unlocked van in the Gungrog Hill area of Welshpool. An attempted burglary also happened in the Four Crosses area during the early hours of April 22.

Intruders smashed the window of a porch door and removed concrete blocks from the wall of a garage in an attempt to gain entry. They also forced open the door of a vehicle at the property.

Meanwhile, at about 4pm on the same day, a red Mini was damaged in the Tesco car park, Welshpool.

Almost a week later, sometime overnight on Wednesday and Thursday last week, criminal damage was caused to a wing mirror of a vehicle parked on Gungrog Road in the town.

Anyone who has any information or witnessed any of the incidents are asked to contact Dyfed-Powys Police on 101.

In relation to the thefts, anyone who has been offered tools for sale in the last 10 days, should also contact Dyfed-Powys Police on 101, or alternatively Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

The application for the energy park will also be looked at by Powys County Council, while the supporting access and electricity infrastructure applications will go before Shropshire Council for consideration.

Engena said the energy park will have a lifespan of 30 years and will produce enough electricity for more than 550 homes.

Chairman of the parish council, Councillor Robert Milton, said that 30 to 40 residents turned out to object to the plans.

"Their main concern is over access, however there are a raft of objections," he said.

He said it was expected that more than 1,300 heavy goods vehicles would travel to-and-from the energy park during its construction. Cllr Milton said: "That figure does not include the contractors' vehicles. It is ludicrous to think that what is an historic, long distance drovers' road could cope with the traffic. We are very supportive of renewable energy but this is in completely the wrong place." Mr Milton said concerns were also expressed about the effect of the development on tourism in the area, with the site close to public footpaths including Offa's Dyke and the Glyndwr Way.

He said: "There are also worries about the wildlife, the birds and also the landscape. The site is just 500 yards from a specially designated zone of special landscape importance."

"The energy park would have an extremely dramatic effect on local tourism, as well as the landscape and infrastructure."

"There are particular fears about the infrastructure because the roads aren't designed to be able to cope with the type and scale of the vehicles that could be travelling back-and-to on the roads. It will cause a lot of damage to the infrastructure."

Last month Miles Hunter, the owner of the Pen-y-Dyffryn Hotel in Rhydycroesau and the founder of local campaign group, Community Against Rhydycroesau Turbine and EnergyPark (CARTE), said the plans could "scar the local landscape and community for many years to come".

Super Nova still on the road



Mechanic Alan Edwards with the Nova he has serviced over many years

HERE comes a super Nova – a K-reg car still on the road and being serviced by the same mechanic, 24 years after it was first sold.

The immaculate red Vauxhall Nova K618 DAW was originally sold to Eileen Northcott of Whittington by Arthurs of Oswestry in 1993.

When she stopped driving in 2002, her son, retired rector of Whittington David North, took over ownership and still drives it today.

Mechanic Alan Edwards has serviced the car since it was sold in 1993 for just £4,500.

Neil Pomford, Arthurs of Oswestry after sales manager, said: "This is a really beautiful and most distinguished car which we are exceedingly delighted to have serviced

every year since its original sale on March 17, 1993. That's a lot of regular annual services and indeed no small number of MOTs which we have also carried out on behalf of the Rev North during those 24 years. The fact that Arthurs has serviced this car for so many years is due to several factors – the way it is driven, looked after by the owner and the fact that our team of technicians have a total of 150 years of experience in the motor industry. We are confident that we shall still be looking after this marvelous Vauxhall car, for many years to come."

Rev North said: "I cannot thank Arthurs of Oswestry enough for their continuing careful servicing of the Nova which my mother adored and I have also loved ever since."

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PETER RHODES



MILITARY mysteries of our time. A reader watched a TV documentary about a United States nuclear submarine. Why he asks, 100 metres underwater in a steel tube, do the crew wear camouflaged combat kit?

WALLIS Simpson, the American divorcee who stole King Edward VIII, supposedly said: "A woman can never be too rich or too thin," although no-one seems to know when or where she said it. But authentic or not, those words can well be applied to owners of the latest generation of flying cars, which are the stuff of dreams. The Kitty Hawk Flyer, unveiled a few days ago, is an electric powered drone capable of carrying a single person. It looks terrific until you notice two things. Firstly, the price has not been disclosed, which suggests it is enormous. Secondly, the woman pilot is enviably slender. This is a plaything for light people with heavy wallets.

AN alleged Italian terrorist with alleged links to alleged members of the alleged Mafia has been allowed to remain in the UK by a British judge, despite being allegedly convicted in his alleged absence in an Italian court for alleged robbery and firearms offences in 1986. I would just like to put on record my admiration of such an enlightened and progressive ruling by the English courts, and point out the large number of "allegeds" in this item. I don't want a horse's head in my bed, thanks.

ANOTHER bank holiday. It takes me back to 1981 when I covered the wedding of Charles and Diana in St Paul's and stayed the night before in a hotel near Green Park in London. The chatter in the bar that night was not the sort of stuff the Buckingham Palace fairy-tale-wedding machine wanted to hear. One lady said the age difference was too big. Another reminded us that in the engagement-ring photos, Diana's fingernails were gnawed with worry. But the abiding memory is of the angry company boss at the bar, complaining bitterly that just because a public holiday had been declared, he was expected to give his employees a day off on full pay. It is very kind of Jeremy Corbyn to promise us four more bank holidays if he wins the June 8 General Election - but who's going to pay for them?

BORIS Johnson's term of abuse for Corbyn is not that unusual. When my brother and I were pre-schoolers, Dad often referred to us, not unkindly, as "you pair of mugwumps." Many years later, watching The Last of the Mohicans, I assumed Mugwump was the name given to the Huron chief. Turned out he was actually called Magua, played brilliantly by the Cherokee actor Wes Studi.



The main emergency centre for the county would be at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital



Tackling issues - Simon Wright, chief executive of Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust



The Women and Children's Centre would be retained at the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford

Change is needed to keep both main hospitals open

NHS Trust boss SIMON WRIGHT explains how both main hospitals in the county can be kept open

MUCH has been said over the past few weeks about our hospital services.

It is natural, when there is talk of reconfiguring hospital services, for there to be a level of concern. But I believe it is really important to respond to any deliberately misleading comments and to those that obstruct attempts to provide a better service.

We need, collectively, to find a way through the differences of opinion, and maintain a focus on what will give us the best results for patients.

To provide a better service, hospitals must not stand still; they must continually transform. For too long, our local NHS system has been caught in a gridlock that obstructed change. Staff at the hospitals - our doctors, nurses, other clinicians and support functions including management - were unable to progress their clinically-led ideas for improving patient care.

Over time, this has led to a number of services becoming over-stretched.

Now we are tackling those issues, head on. This means publicly identifying which services have had staffing issues, or excessive waiting lists, and doing something about it. It means recognising and responding, in public, to criticism of a particular service, because such feedback is essential to improvement. It means setting out service improvement ideas, and their justification, for public response. It means recognising where problems in recruitment indicate to us that a service is unattractive to the specialists needed to run them, and changing those services so we can successfully recruit in



The NHS is being saved by the dedication, kindness and care of its staff

the future. To do these things does not demonstrate failure; it demonstrates that progress is being made. The NHS employs one in 20 workers in the UK. SaTH is made up of more than 5,500 people. They have delivered amazing outcomes with kind and compassionate care these past 12 months in the face of the most challenging winter in decades. They continue to stand together, proud to care and serve our population.

A small population does not produce enough patients to keep a particular specialist up-to-date. A reasonable sized hospital trust needs to serve around half a million people if it is to have the right breadth of specialist cover and to keep a good proportion of specialist services local. For this reason, the people of Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Mid Wales all need each other if they are to have a hospital trust in their geographic area.

Nonetheless, as we said over 18 months ago, it does make sense to keep two hospitals in the two major towns. The task is, therefore, to make one or

organisation work across two sites, in a way that reduces unnecessary duplication and encourages strength in depth. The answer is to have different centres of excellence on each site.

If we don't do it this way, it will mean more and more patients having to travel out of the area to access their specialist, whether for urgent or planned support. The centres of excellence approach should save us from slowly leaking services out of our county.

While we wait for consultation on how this model might work, SaTH has continued to work hard to improve the existing approach. In the last 12 months we have recruited more than 180 additional permanent clinical staff and spent substantial sums on temporary staff. We have invested over £500,000 in the A&E Department at the Princess Royal Hospital and in a range of state-of-the-art equipment.

We are waiting for consultation on the new approach through the NHS Future Fit programme. This is part of the process to ensure the suggested clinical

model is tested from all sides, particularly from the public's point of view.

Our preferred clinical option is for a Planned Care Site at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford (PRH), with the Emergency Centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH).

Both hospitals would have a new Accident and Urgent Care Centre, which would manage medical illness and minor injuries, paediatrics and other ailments. This represents the majority of cases we see in our current A&Es today.

These centres would be supported by extended nurse practitioners, GPs and telemedicine support from our Emergency Centre doctors 24/7. Separating planned from unplanned care should mean a huge reduction in cancelled operations, better control of infection, and a better opportunity for specialists to offer the right care at the right time when people need it most.

PRH would have 350 beds, centres of excellence in Diabetes, Bariatric Surgery, Imaging and Diagnostics and Elective surgery. Local outpatients would remain as would fracture clinics.

We would keep a Women and Children's Centre at PRH with breast services centralising there. Seven out of 10 women's and children's episodes of care would still be delivered locally, with specialist emergency paediatric care taking advantage of the greater depth of expertise at the Emergency Centre in RSH.

We already see ambulance patients travelling out of county and to stop this from increasing we must create an Emergency Centre to provide the safest care for our most unwell people.

While our hospitals would both change, they would emerge safer and stronger. Our people would get the facilities they deserve. Our staff deserve the best facilities to work in.

We need to see the NHS Future Fit programme move to public consultation, this summer. Stand together with our staff and help us to build a better future for everyone.

WORKING FOR YOU



Last month the Prime Minister Theresa May announced that she would be calling a General Election on Thursday, June 8.

Thanks to Conservative policies, our economy grew faster than all but one major economy last year.

Employment is up by 2.8 million since 2010 and unemployment in North Shropshire is down to 1.4 per cent.

This has created wealth, which we are able to plough back into public services.

In the case of health we are spending at record levels.

Discussions

In the Brexit discussions we must negotiate a new relationship with our European neighbours.

Only a Conservative Government with a strong majority will deliver Brexit, as voted for by 17.4 million people last June.

At the ballot box, we can give the Government a clear mandate to take back control of our money, our laws and our borders.

This is why we voted to leave the European Union: to be able to elect politicians whose futures now depend on raising and spending taxpayers' money, according to the country's priorities.

One policy area which is of particular significance to North Shropshire is of course agriculture.

A UK agriculture policy outside the European Union should grow the rural economy, improve the environment, and protect the country from animal and plant diseases.

By leaving the political structures of the European Union, a UK policy could not only pay as much, if not more, than the Common Agricultural Policy, but funds would be allocated in a much more effective and targeted manner by policy makers with a full understanding of the UK industry and environment.

We must look beyond just essential subsidies and at the bigger picture.

Potential

British industry and agriculture, brimming with potential, is held back by the European Union's prejudice against advanced technology and science.

We can now adopt the Innovation Principle and be the leading centre of world agricultural research and practice. The UK, freed from the encumbrance of the European Union, will be able to develop bi-lateral trade deals to sell our products to countries such as the United States of America, Japan, India and China. I encourage you all to vote in the General Election on June 8 and I look forward to meeting you during the campaign.

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP

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Letters

Treasury should support pension victims

WE have four MPs in Shropshire, all of them Conservatives.

I wonder if they, like some of their party colleagues, prefer to support tax avoiders or would rather assist citizens who have taken their own responsibilities by saving for their old age?

Also across Shropshire there were, up to a couple of years ago, 770 Equitable Life (EL) victims, some more of whom might have died by now, which suits the Treasury nicely.

In the 1980s, the Thatcher government asked people to "take their own responsibilities by taking out personal pension plans"

with the assurance that "those savings will be safeguarded". EL was seen as the epitome of a cautious and safe insurer, providing reliability rather than profits.

Unfortunately, in the mid-1990s, that was no longer the case. The "regulator", government and Treasury conspired to keep that fact secret, meaning that more money was taken from new policyholders until the reality was exposed in 2000.

At that time, the Policyholders Protection Act 1975 ensured 90 per cent compensation for such losses, but the government refused to pay.

EL victims have fought for 16 years for

payment of their rightful compensation, estimated at no more than £6 billion, while a peak total of £1,600 billion of taxpayers' money was used to cover the losses of bank savers after the crash of 2008.

But now, another Conservative MP is begging for "leniency" for those who used a "support the British film industry" tax avoidance scheme, because they are "facing disastrous demands to pay their taxes".

Come on you Cons, please show us your true colours and get the Treasury to pay up before we are all dead.

MALCOLM MACINTYRE-READ
Much Wenlock

Funding plan will hurt our small schools in the future

AN open letter to The Rt Hon Justine Greening, Secretary of State.

I respond to your consultation over the schools funding formula.

In this area we have very small schools (as does much of rural Shropshire). This is inevitable from the small and dispersed settlements.

They invariably deliver good education to children.

Their closure would threaten this, as well as damaging their communities.

The new formula threatens their viability.

It will savage their finances and make many of them utterly unsustainable.

I ask you urgently to reconsider.

I urge you to re-visit the fundamental problems created by a pupil number-based formula.

This by definition disadvantages small schools.

There is a minimum staffing level required to deliver a proper curriculum irrespective of pupil numbers.

Whether you have classes of 15 or 25, you still need a teacher plus on-costs.

I urge you to re-introduce a strong element of curriculum-(or, activity)-based funding.

At a stroke, this will restore much of the required sustainability.

I further suggest that DfE considers a flat sum to each school for, as it were, 'staying in business' (similar to that payable to councils).

Time is no friend in this matter.

You will, we are sure, have had similar representation from sparsely-populated rural areas and you will know, therefore, that this is a structural fault, not special pleading.

Funding based on pupil numbers is inherently unstable and disadvantageous to small schools.

PETER PHILLIPS
Minsterley

The Scots will not go for deal

THE die is now cast and the government of Britain has the formidable task of negotiating the best deal for its people outside the ancient Goliath that is the EU.

I have no doubt in my mind that we will be able to achieve a result that is agreeable to both us and the other members of the EU, while we are then able to create our own laws without outside interference.

While I have complete confidence of our success I do not think Nicola Sturgeon is doing herself, or the Scottish people any favours by instigating another referendum for Scottish independence. The oil price since the first referendum has more than halved and add to this the fact that Mrs Sturgeon wants to have Trident removed from Scottish shores, thereby making many thousands unemployed, with no other foreseeable alternative available. I really can't see how the Scottish people can be as simple as she thinks they are.

MARTIN EDDIES
Shrewsbury

Image shows a quiet day in town centre



There is not a single person to be seen in this view of Oswestry from yesteryear. Nor any vehicles. Perhaps it was a Sunday.

Hi-tech progress will overtake the need for HS2 train

STILL the muddled thinkers are continuing to push the nonsense of a railway line that will never be needed for anywhere near capacity.

Do they really believe that by the time the first passenger is able to board the first train, projected to be 2026, that enough people will still need to travel between Birmingham and London and vice versa, for work?

The rate of advances in technology will overtake the need for many more people than there already are to leave home to travel to a place of work.

The speed at which communication is carried out now, just think what it will be like in another nine years, even if the first phase is completed on time.

Can they not see that the projected cost which seems to have gone from £33 billion when first mooted to the latest figure of £80 billion could be better spent on improving the present network for the millions of travellers already using the system?

PETER HARMAN
Tibberton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
Oswestry Chronicle,
Kettley,
Telford, TF1 5HU

EMAIL

letters@oswestry
chronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Fears seem to be unfounded

LOOKING through the business section of the Shropshire Star, I noticed that the stock market had reached a new record high.

Strange this, as Mr Cameron had predicted a catastrophic crash post-Brexit.

I have also been searching for evidence of major banks moving out of London as again predicted. The only major bank moving its headquarters out of London is HSBC - not to Europe but to Birmingham!

BOB ROSE
Stirchley Park

Humility is the way forward for a warmer world

LONG before the days of TV stars and celebrities a vast crowd had gathered by the lakeside to hear this man whose words seemed to touch their very hearts and souls.

Not only that, those who had various sicknesses were healed when he reached out and touched them. Some toddlers had wormed their way to the front chattering. His helpers grabbed them and were about to shove them out of the way, but for once he was very angry. Don't stop them, let them come to me, he said, as he and picked them up and cradled them in his arms. Unless you become humble like these children you will not be part of my eternal kingdom.

Yes, this was Jesus, and if only men and women would heed those words instead of us always trying to be the boss, all the fighting for control would end and peace would break all over this tortured planet. Jesus came to show us how to access the love and power of our Creator, bringing healing to body, mind and spirit.

RON JONES
St Martins

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At the opening are, from left, Melony Carter from the Open Door Family Centre, Joanna Rowsell Shand and Aldi store manager Karl Beck



Members of the public were keen to take a look at the new store

New store opens

JOANNA Rowsell Shand did much of her Olympic training in the Mid Wales countryside.

And now the Rio gold medal winning cyclist has returned to open a new Aldi store in Welshpool.

The world and Olympic cycling champion revealed the long hours she spent training on roads near the town during the opening on Thursday last week.

Hundreds of shoppers queued outside the Aldi store before the official opening by the team pursuit Rio and London Olympic gold medal winner. She praised the superstore for

its support of team GB athletes and told the crowd she discovered Welshpool when her parents 'escaped to the country' in 2013.

"I did a lot of my training for Rio on the roads around here when I came home - your parents' house is always home. It is beautiful countryside for getting out on the bike," she said. Joanna, 28, said she got into cycling by accident when British Cycling held a scouting day at her school in 2004.

She went on to be a member of the GB team for more than 10 years, retiring after Rio.

She won gold medals in the women's team pursuit at four world championships and gold medals in the same discipline at the 2012 London Olympics and the 2016 Rio Olympics, as

well as the individual pursuit at the 2014 world championships.

Members of the Open Door Family Centre in Oldford were able to get a sneak preview of the store. The not-for-profit community group, which runs parent and toddler and pre-school groups, received a trolley-full of goodies from the company - from nappies and children's books, to tea and coffee.

Vice-chairman Laura Poole said: "We are always very grateful for donations and support to help us provide for families in Welshpool."

Welshpool shoppers gave their seal of approval to the new Aldi store. Mother and daughter, Anne Lewis and Becky Whittingham, said they were pleased to see the site developed.



Olympic gold medallist cyclist Joanna Rowsell Shand with Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies and members of the Open Door Family Centre

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Court is told man stole to pay off his rent arrears

A MAN told a court he stole two electric toothbrushes in a bid to pay off his rent arrears.

Matthew Rogers was caught on CCTV removing the tags from two toothbrushes before taking them from Superdrug in Oswestry without paying.

Telford Magistrates Court was told that Rogers, 34, of Chaucer Road, Oswestry, had stolen the items in a bid to pay off debts.

He admitted a charge of theft and breaching two community orders that had been handed to him at previous court appearances. Adam Warner, prosecuting, said at 1.30pm at the shop on Cross Street on February 16 he was caught on CCTV removing the tags from the items before putting them into his bag and leaving without paying. On April 2 he was interviewed by police. Mr Warner said: "He said he sold the items for about £50 for money to pay off some debts."

Justine McVittie, for Rogers, said: "The family were previously in private rented accommodation which was in disrepair and he was advised by the council to stop paying rent until the landlord completed the work."

"This backfired and he was evicted and deemed to be voluntarily homeless."

She said Rogers was left with arrears for rent at the property and because of his family situation stole the items in a bid to pay off some of the debt.

Magistrates gave him a six month conditional discharge for the theft and ordered him to pay compensation of £130 to Superdrug, plus a victim surcharge of £20. For the breach of the community orders, he was given a total of six further rehabilitation days and ordered to pay £60 costs.

Man jailed for two years for arson attack on car

By Dominic Robertson

A MAN has been jailed for two years after setting his former partner's car alight in a jealous rage.

A court heard how the fire, started by Daniel Mark Williamson, 25, of Woodland View, Treflach, Oswestry, nearly spread to a nearby property.

Mold Crown Court was told firefighters put out the blaze, but had they not been called the fire could have destroyed the woman's bungalow at Meifod.

Williamson admitted a charge of "arson being reckless as to whether life would be endangered".

John Philpotts, prosecuting, said the fire at Ger y Llan, Meifod, on March 14, destroyed a Ford Kia.

It was parked a metre or so away from the rented bungalow and flames shot up to the fascia boards on the gable end with the door melting in the heat.

The court was told that on the night the victim had gone out with her former partner.

She had left her mobile phone in his car and later realised she had received calls and texts from Williamson, one of a threatening nature. At about 8pm a neighbour saw the car well alight. The court was told that the defendant had been in his works van, which had been fitted with a tracker that placed the vehicle at the scene at the time.

After being arrested, he made full admissions and said that he had "lost his head."

Williamson said that he felt his former girlfriend and her ex-partner had "got one over on him".

Judge Rhys Rowlands said the fire was a deliberate act and there had been a risk of an explosion from the vehicle.

Plant hunters' fair will benefit hospice



There will be plenty on offer at the fair at the British Ironwork Centre to keep plant hunters happy

HOPE House Children's Hospice is set to be quids in thanks to a forthcoming plant hunters' fair.

The fair will be held at the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry on May 14 and will be in aid of the Mor-da-based hospice.

Plant fair organiser, Janet Blow said: "Our fairs at this eclectic

Shropshire venue are a brilliant success, not least because the entrance money and donations all go to help the essential work of Hope House Children's Hospices. In the last two years, the event has raised a total of £2,400. We are hoping to raise even more this year. The entrance is just £1 but the volunteers with collection

buckets will be more than pleased if you choose to donate more."

The fair runs from 10am to 5pm.

There will be around 18 top nurseries at the event.

Among those attending will be the nationally renowned Edrom Nursery all the way from Berwickshire in Scotland.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Charity shop is looking for help

A CHARITY shop in Oswestry is appealing for volunteer drivers and driver assistants.

The Age UK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin charity has opened a donated furniture shop in Oswestry.

It is urgently seeking more volunteers to extend its collection and delivery service.

Heather Osborne, chief executive of Age UK STW, said: "Profits gained from our Oswestry furniture shop are helping us fund essential local services for older people across the region."

"Our volunteers make a huge contribution to our overall success."

"We provide training and support, and would encourage anyone who has a day to spare to get in touch with our volunteer recruitment department on (01743) 588570."

"This sort of role would really suit someone who is looking to enhance their CV with some valuable retail work experience."

She added: "It does require people to be able to lift and move items of furniture."

Store told to take down billboards

A NEW supermarket will be told that it must take down two advertising billboards.

The Lidl store in Oswestry opened earlier this year at the junction of Salop Road and Victoria Road and has proved popular with shoppers.

But Shropshire Council's north planning committee last week refused to grant retrospective planning permission for two large advertising hoardings at the edge of the development. Councillors took the decision over concerns about the look of the hoardings. Councillor Joyce Barrow said: "The signs are completely out of keeping."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Quacking finish to big duck race

A CHARITY duck race saw some last minute entrants take part.

Firefighters from Welshpool Fire Station organised their annual duck race recently.

The duck race attracted scores of onlookers to the event on the Montgomery Canal in the town.

Just as the hundreds of plastic ducks were being released onto the water, a family of ducklings who lived on the canal appeared in front of the bright yellow versions.

The family of ducks then showed the plastic ducks the way to the finish line.

A proud mother duck led her ducklings down the canal to 'win' the race to the amusement of the firefighters and supporters.

With local people paying to 'buy' a plastic duck the race raised £2,428 for the Kids with Cancer charity.

Firms are asked about trade plan

POWYS businesses are being sounded out for interest in an 'approved trader' scheme.

The county council's trading standards team is asking traders if they would like a 'Buy With Confidence' scheme to be set up in the county.

Clive Jones from trading standards, said: "We are consulting businesses to see if there is any interest in an approved trader scheme named 'Buy with confidence' which promotes traders in Powys who could then use this brand. The idea is that their customers could then have the reassurance that the particular trader has been audited and accredited by Powys-based Trading Standards officers."

Details are available on e-mail from tradingstandards@powys.gov.uk.

Anger as walnut tree felled in pub revamp

Report by Naomi Penrose

RESIDENTS have voiced their anger that one of their town's much-loved trees has been felled by developers.

The old walnut tree was situated on the car park of the former Raven Inn in Welshpool, that is currently under refurbishment, in a bid to reopen the pub.

A number of residents have taken to social media to question how Powys County Council allowed it to be removed and raised the point of whether it was protected by a Tree Preservation Order – and if not, that it should have been.

But a spokesman for the local authority has confirmed the tree was not protected by any such order.

John Evans, spokesman for Powys County Council, said: "There was no Tree Preservation Order on the tree and it was also outside of the conservation, so the landowner does not need permission from the council to remove it."

Mat Brown, who posted the initial thread on the Welshpool Melting Pot Facebook page, said: "It takes donkeys years for a walnut tree to reach that size. Its age and size made it a very special tree, giving it impact."

"It was a great feature of the Raven Inn. It would be impossible to instantly replace the impact it had on the property."

Town resident Dennis Duggan said: "Trees are vital for the environment and wildlife, and should not be chopped down just so a few more cars can be parked."

Earlier this year plans to refurbish the Raven Inn were given the go-ahead.

There was a crooked lamb...and ram



Farmer Jess Bason from Montgomery with Crooky the lamb

THERE was a crooked lamb – and a crooked ram – whose crooked necks have saved them from the abattoir.

Farmer Jess Bason has become so attached to Crooky and Kevin she is even thinking of opening a sanctuary for sheep born with the condition known as wry-neck.

Jess, from Lower Broughton Farm, Montgomery, said she was just 14 when Crooky was born eight years ago.

"I was always the person that bottle fed the lambs who couldn't feed from their mothers and so I took on Crooky."

"We managed to get her mother to lie down in a way that the lamb could feed and, apart from the neck, she grew really well. She has gone on to be a really good breeding ewe and has had 10 lambs herself."

A few weeks ago one of Jess's friends contacted her to say a lamb born on his farm also had a crooked neck and would she like to have him. The ram lamb, called Kevin, will now be kept as a pet, rather than go to market.

"We started thinking that it would be good to see if we can start up a sanctuary that might become a farm diversification," Jess added.

Changes are set to lead to councillor cut

WELSHPOOL is likely to lose a town councillor in national boundary changes.

The Welsh Government has asked the Boundary Commission for Wales to review the ward boundaries in each community across the principality.

It is not proposed that the overall Welshpool Town Council boundaries will change but the wards within its boundaries will do and a scheme, which would come into force in May 2022 would see the number of councillors drop from 16 to 15.

Town Clerk Robert Robinson said: "At the present time Castle Ward has 1,086 electors whilst Llanerchydol and Gungrog have in excess of 1,750 electors. The rules that the Boundary Commission are working to are to look for 1,660 electors per ward plus or minus 10 per cent. The town council has been proactive with its county councillors in seeking to come up with a common plan for presentation to the Boundary Commission. If this can be agreed then it is very likely that the scheme put forward will form the new boundaries from May 2022."

The number of Powys county councillors would remain at three.

Nine homes are given permission

PLANS for nine homes have been given outline planning approval by local authority planners.

The development could be built on a site adjoining The Sidings, Caerhowel in Montgomery, and would also include accompanying garages. As well as building the homes, work would also be carried out to improve the existing vehicular access, as well as creating new access for vehicles.

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Accountant invests £100k in revamp of pub project

AN accountant from Oswestry has invested £100,000 by revamping a pub to turn into offices for his firm.

James Denton, of Park Hall, who runs Mike Griffiths & Partners (MGP) Accountants, is the new owner of the former Yew Tree Inn in Gresford, near Wrexham.

Mr Denton, who bought the accountancy firm nine years ago, took over the pub on High Street from Marston's Brewery which closed its doors on September 30. The pub had been on the market for more than three years.

MGP Accountants will now move from its nearby current offices on Chester Road in Gresford to the converted pub.

Mr Denton, who currently employs five members of staff, said the investment and the move was a vital part of his strategic plans for growth.

He said it was extremely important for him to keep the business in Gresford as that is where the firm was first launched by the former owner and company founder Mike Griffiths 35 years ago.

Mr Denton said the pub was at risk of being sold off to housing developers if he had not bought it so he was pleased he was able to keep the building as a key part of the village.

Mr Denton has already welcomed a new member of staff earlier this year and plans to offer more jobs throughout the next 12 to 18 months.

He said: "The former Yew Tree Inn was a perfect move for us as it offers extensive space which we have converted into office accommodation on the ground floor.

"This gives us the much needed office space and also space for our expanding team."

"The internal conversion was a huge undertaking but we are extremely pleased with the finished open plan office," Mr Denton said.

Travelling showman family can stay at site

Report by Sue Austin

A TRAVELLING showman family has been granted permission to remain on the site of a former school for up to a year.

The Stokes family has travelled Britain with its funfair for generations and until recently had a base on land at the Smithfield livestock market in Oswestry.

When the Smithfield was re-developed the family lost the home it returned to when not taking its funfair on the road and it was feared that the 100-year tradition of being travelling showmen would come to an end.

After negotiations Shropshire Council allowed the family to move onto the car park and playground of the old Ifton Primary School at St Martins.

The council's north planning committee extended that permission for 12 months for six caravans at a meeting last week.

Councillor Steve Davenport said that the extension had the support of local people and the parish council.

"The family are happy in the village and they have been welcomed," he said.

Members of the committee were told that the site was lived on by Alan Stokes and his wife, two brothers and three sons.

Councillor Gerald Dakin said that while he was happy to agree to the 12-month extension, he would not like to see permission extended 'ad infinitum'.

"I would encourage our officers to use due diligence to find a new site as soon as possible," he said.

There was a call from Councillor Vince Hunt for the council to consider allowing the family to remain at St Martins permanently. "It seems there is support for the family from the parish council and from residents," he said.

Pair venture out on big adventure



Charlotte Duggleby and Claire Barkley are taking on a mammoth cycling challenge

PARENTS Claire Barkley and Charlotte Duggleby are venturing out on their biggest ever challenge to raise funds to help three charities.

The friends have set off from Land's End for the 1,000 mile cycle ride to John O'Groats, completely unsupported.

They are raising money for the Clie Sargent charity to help young cancer patients, the Alzheimer's Society and the Family Fund, which helps families with disabled children.

The two met three years ago when Charlotte, from the Ceiriog Valley, bought her bike from Claire and Peter Barkley, who own Stuart Barkley Cycles in Oswestry.

Most fundraisers complete the challenge as part of an organised group, but the two intrepid women have decided to go it alone.

They say neither is good with geography and they have very little sense of direction, but with all the planning they are hopeful to find

their way. The trip has taken two years to plan. Charlotte said: "Originally we planned to set sail in May 2016, but due to Claire's ill-health the trip had to be postponed.

"Looking back now we needed that year to get ourselves sorted with our plans."

Anyone wanted to support their fundraising can do so via the website www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Claire-Barkley4-Charlotte-Duggleby.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police give weed killer warning

POLICE are urging people with pets to avoid a footpath after an unknown weed killer was used on it.

The substance was put down on the footpath which joins Moors Lane and the Churchfields area in St Martins, near Oswestry, although its strength is unknown.

The discovery has prompted officers to advise people to use alternative routes until the substance has evaporated. A spokesman for West Mercia Police said: "On the whole public footpaths are maintained either by the council or by farmers who are responsible for the field. Where a footpath crosses a field weed killer is usually put down to clear and define the route for those who use the path.

"There is a footpath which joins Moors Lane and the Churchfields area in St Martins, someone has put down an unknown substance on the field to clear the footpath without the knowledge of the farmer, as the farmer is unsure what the strength of the substance is we are concerned for the welfare of pets that may use the path."

Walk-in burglary is investigated

OFFICERS are investigating after a purse was taken from a shopping bag which was hanging on a banister in a house.

It is believed the purse stolen by a walk-in burglar.

Police say a front door had been left unlocked which was later found wide open at the house in Victoria Road, Oswestry, and a burgundy leather purse containing cash, a driving licence and debit cards was taken.

It is thought the purse was taken by a walk-in burglary sometime between 1.30pm on April 20 and 4.30am on April 21.

Anyone with any information about the incident is asked to contact West Mercia Police on 101, quoting crime reference number 0372s 210417.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Wellness centre to host yoga retreat

A NEW wellness centre is to hold a yoga retreat later this month.

The Bryn Tanat Wellness Centre at Llansantffraid was launched by Susan Martin and her family.

The centre was launched after six years of research and planning by the family.

Their family home, Bryn Tanat Hall, is already a popular, five-star, short-break destination.

As part of the expansion the centre will hold a Wellness Yoga Retreat from May 12 to May 14. The weekend will include evening and morning yoga session, relaxation, mindfulness, meditation and pranayama or breathing work as well as free time to enjoy the facilities. More details about the centre and what it offers including the yoga retreat are available from www.bryntanatwellness.com

School's teaching hitting right note

MORETON Hall School's music department has achieved the Incorporated Society of Musicians, bronze certificate for 2017.

The award was given for the excellent results in GCSE music last year when more than 10 per cent of all GCSE students at Key Stage 4 took and achieved an A*-C in music, placing Moreton within the top schools across England.

Helen Rayner, director of music at Moreton Hall, said the award demonstrated and recognised the excellent work of staff and students alike and was an outstanding achievement for the school.

She said: "In a time of uncertainty for the arts, this award highlights the value and importance of music within education. We are delighted to be acknowledged for our excellence in music."

The ISM is a subject association for music educators and looks after more than 7,500 members.

Appeal to sign up for charity cycle ride in bid to raise cash

INTREPID cyclists are being urged to sign up for this year's Lake Vyrnwy Bikeathon which is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

The event, which will take place on May 14, traditionally attracts hundreds of cyclists.

They can take part in either the 13 or 26-mile event in aid of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

And this year, organisers are hoping to take the total money raised during the 20 years to more than £200,000.

Organisers of the Bikeathon are urging cyclists young and old to get in touch and sign up for the 2017 event and raise money for the worthy cause.

Lyn Evans, of the Mid Wales Branch of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research – now known as Bloodwise, said it was a great way to raise money for a good cause while also getting fit.

She said: "We hope that cyclists turn out in their usual numbers and help raise money for this worthy cause."

"Entrants can not only help raise money for a wonderful cause but enjoy the stunning views of Lake Vyrnwy."

"Riders can choose the 13.5 mile route or go for the full 26 miles."

"Registration is at Llanwddyn inside the community centre."

"So come along for an outdoor adventure and help raise money to beat blood cancer."

She added: "The route is on the road around the lake, which is open to road traffic."

"Marshalls will be on duty on the route."

"There are a couple of small pulls but otherwise it is flat and suitable for all ages and abilities."

She said the route was relatively flat, taking cyclists on a one or two-lap tour of the reservoir.

She said it is the perfect chance for families to take part in an event together.



Cyclists will be able to enjoy the beauty of Lake Vyrnwy during the charity ride

Pre-registration fees are £10 for adults, £5 for children and £25 for family.

These rise on the day to £20 for adults, £5 for children and £45 for families.

Anyone wanting to take part in the bikeathon, which starts at 10am on May 14, can enter using the charity's website beatbloodcancers.org.uk/bikeathon. Alternatively they can call local organiser Lyn Evans on (01686) 420648. Later in the year, the lake will play host to its annual half marathon for the 29th time.

The event will take place on September 10 and entries are now open. Last year's half marathon attracted

1,441 people to take part, with the first man home Ryan Holroyd from City of Stoke Athletics Club in a time of one hour and seven minutes.

First woman was Rachel Jones of Salford Harriers in a time of one hour and 20 minutes.

More information can be found at lakevyrnwyhalfmarathon.com.

Energy deal could bring funds boost

SHROPSHIRE Council hopes a new energy tariff will raise thousands of pounds for closure-threatened museums, while promising lower bills to homeowners.

Money raised from people signing up to the energy tariff, a partnership between the authority and SSE, will go towards the running of the council's cultural assets, including museums.

The initiative is part of a drive from the council to improve its finances through commercial ventures. It comes just months after financial auditors cast serious doubt on the authority's ability to provide its services from 2019/20, without making more money.

In February, auditors claimed vital services across Shropshire could be at "significant risk" because of a chronic cash crisis and said the shortage could affect all services the council provides – including those considered a legal duty.

According to Tim Smith, head of business, enterprise and commercial services with Shropshire Council, the new income stream could raise "tens of thousands of pounds" over the next year. When someone switches from their current tariff to the new 'Shropshire Community Energy Tariff', SSE will pay a fee to the council, which will go towards its own bills for different assets.

Mr Smith said: "As we're continually facing reductions in our own budgets, we recognise that we need to be more commercial and find other opportunities to raise income."

"The deal put forward by SSE offers a discounted rate to residents from a well-known and established brand, and will generate valuable income for the council that can be put into the services that people value most."

"Through this partnership with SSE we will receive a fee for each referral to them that results in a contract take up. This money will be used to support our museums and cultural assets – which were previously noted as at risk due to cuts in funding."

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Town museum 'going great guns'

Mark Hignett with some of the letters which told of a secret gay relationship between two soldiers

OSWESTRY Town Museum has welcomed more than 25,000 visitors since it opened its doors five years ago.

Mark Hignett, who helps run the attraction, came up with the idea of a museum in the town six years ago and presented his vision to the town council.

He recently returned to the town council to update councillors on the progress of the museum., which in-

cluded the landmark visit. Mr Hignett told the council that the museum had proved much more popular than anyone could have imagined.

He said: "It is six years since I approached the town council with an idea for a museum. I came with that presentation and a promise I would stick with it for five years."

"Well, I am still here and we are going great guns. We celebrated our 25,000th visitor in March as well as our fifth anniversary."

"We first predicted 3,000 visitors a year and we have been attracting over

5,000 a year. we don't take into consideration the groups I go out and give talks to."

"We are still getting artefacts coming in on a daily basis."

Mr Hignett told councillors one of his favourite memories was an online bidding war for Second World War letters from a soldier who was doing his training in the town.

He said after transcribing the letters and researching the story, volunteers discovered they told of the secret gay relationship between two soldiers.

New plans for former pub are revealed

A FORMER pub could be transformed into a bar and restaurant.

Paul Fitton hopes to bring new life into the dilapidated building that once housed the White Horse Hotel on Church Street in Oswestry – which closed nearly 50 years ago. Outlined in his planning application lodged with Shropshire Council, Mr Fitton hopes to return the building to its former use of a licensed premises.

Most recently the building was the home of Church Street Pharmacy but it has been vacant since the business moved in 2014.

Mr Fitton is a well-known publican in Oswestry and runs The Vaults in Church Street and The Station Grill in Llansantffraid. In a design and access statement, Mr Fitton said: "Oswestry is a town that is in need of investment. There has been a recent decline in footfall and more so the night time economy, with the closing of the popular Ironworks on Church Street and the recent closing of the Walls Dining Rooms. A major contributing factor, is people are travelling to the likes of Shrewsbury and Chester who have moved with the times and are offering better choice."

Spiritual group to meet up again

MEMBERS of Oswestry Spiritual Centre have their next meeting this evening (Thursday) in the Cambrian Room, Oswestry.

The event runs from 7.30pm to 9pm and doors open at 7pm.

The cost is £3.50. Members will welcome Ester Cashmore to the centre for the first time and they are looking forward to seeing how she brings the two worlds together and give messages from loved ones and friends.

For more information call 07891 084071 or just come along on the evening.

Campaigners hope to coin in cash for canal

Report by Sue Austin

CANAL enthusiasts are hoping to coin in the cash to embark upon the next round of the restoration of a waterway.

The Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust has launched an appeal to raise two miles of £2 coins to re-open the last two miles of the canal in Shropshire.

Organisers say that, laid end to end over the distance the coins would add up to £250,000.

This will see the stretch of dry canal bed from Crickheath to Pant restored meaning narrowboats will be able to travel from the Llangollen Canal onto the 'Monty' at Lower Frankton all the way to Llanymynech.

The money will fund the re-watering of the canal and the re-building of the School House bridge.

A recent Lottery award is already being used to re-open the canal to Crickheath, create a nature reserve at Aston middle lock and carry out towpath and bridge work.

The £2 coin appeal was officially launched at the Navigation Inn by the High Sheriff of Shropshire, Charles Lillis, and the High Sheriff of Powys, Sue Thompson, along with the regional chairman of the Inland Waterways, Robert Atkins.

Michael Limbrey, chairman of the Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust, revealed that an anonymous benefactor had pledged to match fund money raised by the £2 coin appeal to a maximum amount of £60,000.

"If people Gift Aid their £2 that turns it into £2.50 and with matched funding that will become £5," he said.

"At the launch and a drop-in evening at The Navigation we raised £1,250 and we will be shaking buckets at events throughout the year."



The High Sheriffs of Powys and Shropshire, Sue Thompson and Charles Lillis, left, at the launch of the appeal

NEWS IN BRIEF

Charity walkers will visit town

VOLUNTEERS from a health charity are walking the entirety of Wales to raise funds and awareness for the 10,000 patients living with kidney disease across the country.

The 750km Walk Around Wales will take the team of three volunteer walkers, representing Kidney Wales, 30 days to complete. They will walk through Welshpool on Thursday next week, stopping off at the Victoria Memorial Hospital renal unit. The volunteers also plan to visit Wrexham Maelor Hospital renal unit on Monday. Together with their support team, they will travel to 25 towns across Wales, visiting 15 additional Welsh dialysis centres along the way.

The team will meet nurses, patients, and their families to learn more about their experiences of living with kidney diseases and life on dialysis. The volunteers set off from Cardiff Castle on April 18. Their final destination will be at the Kidney Wales Children's Centre, University Hospital of Wales, on May 17.

National speaking final to take place

SHROPSHIRE is hosting this year's national final of the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition.

The final is to be held at the Thomas Telford School, Old Park, Telford, on Sunday and will be attended by the President of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland Eve Conway, the Mayor of Telford and Wrekin Council Councillor Rae Evans and Rotarian John Sayer, Shropshire District Governor for Shropshire, Staffordshire and parts of the West Midlands.

Competing will be seven teams in the senior final and a similar number in intermediate.

Amongst the school competing will be Oswestry School sponsored by the Rotary Club of Oswestry, and Shipston High School, Warwickshire, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Stratford.

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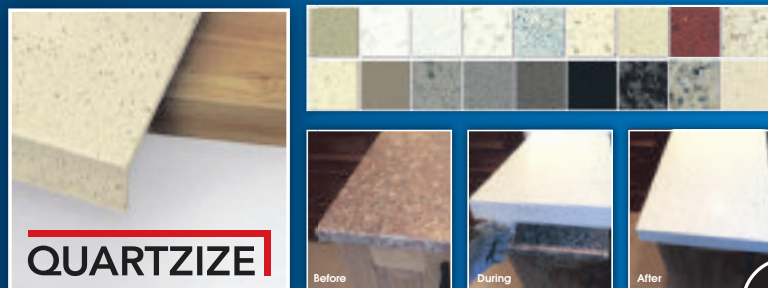
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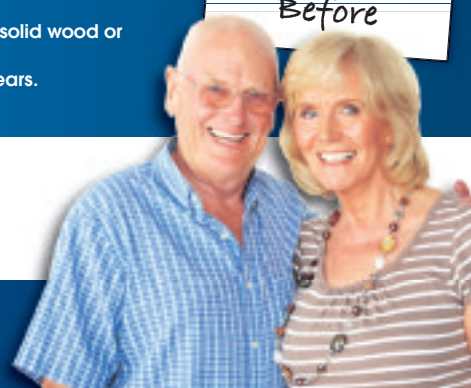


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BT Openreach boss Clive Selley

Discovering frustrations with signal connection

IN other parts of the country, there seems to be nothing you can't use your phone for – online banking, digital train tickets, or even live broadcasting, **writes Rebecca King.**

But in Shropshire, some people still can't even get signal to send a text, let alone make a phone call or get online.

It's probably left many people wondering what the point is in having a mobile phone at all.

For the last three years, the county has consistently been promised better service, better connection and better coverage.

But we still haven't been able to see these improvements.

The battle began with mobiles but as Shropshire continues to expand businesses are now fighting poor broadband coverage as well.

Lack of coverage, slow internet connection, and poor signal is plaguing the county.

Areas are described as "dead zones" and "black spots" – usually as soon as you get out of the county's town centre areas.

Travelling round the county to find out what the situation is now, I was able to experience it first hand.

As expected, it was a frustrating pattern of the signal being fine in the major towns before disappearing entirely along the main roads connecting them.

Texts struggled to send and it was impossible to make calls at all in some areas.

Yet providers continue to say they are finding solutions, with pledges to build masts and upgrade existing equipment regularly making headlines.

A new one was only put up in Baschurch

days ago with further plans to put one in the countryside between Pontesbury and Minsterley.

Meanwhile, EE just last month announced that it would be bringing 4G coverage to 92 per cent of the UK this year.

The news came following a meeting with North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson, who said the "appalling, deteriorating mobile phone signal is inconvenient at best, life-endangering at worst".

BT Openreach boss Clive Selley, as well as EE representatives, visited the county to witness the problems for themselves.

Mr Selley even admitted his surprise at the lack of connectivity in the county's countryside and another pledge was made to the county that he would find solutions to the rural county's connectivity problems.

But for some the attention is proving too little too late. A survey carried out by our sister paper, the Shropshire Star, even indicated that 18 per cent of people have actively considered leaving the county because of the terrible phone signal. And the broadband problems have led to 16 per cent thinking about moving elsewhere.

Some 33 per cent think phone coverage has actually got worse over the last two years, while 26 per cent think the same about broadband.

So after years of promises, some are giving up using phones altogether, while others are left without hope that things will ever get better.

It's about time coverage of the county was sorted before it starts to have a detrimental effect on our economy and forces people to move out the area.

We're still hanging on

By Rebecca King

IT'S hit and miss in Shropshire when it comes to mobile phone coverage – some are hanging out of windows to get reception and some are just hoping for a single bar.

While some county residents are fairly happy with the connection they receive, others are far from satisfied.

Slow improvements have been noted in Oswestry, with the town itself no longer plagued with complaints.

But it seems the outlying areas are still struggling to keep connected.

Patricia and Alan Tucker, who live in Penybontfawr, said it was particularly poor in their village. The couple use Orange and ID.

Mrs Tucker said: "We are hanging out our window to get signal, it's been like that for years.

"It's only 17 miles from Oswestry but it is really bad.

"It's not only there but it's around the other villages too.

"We have to use our landline but then our BT was out for three weeks as well.

"They kept saying they would divert our calls to our mobiles but nobody would listen, we just don't get any signal."

Richard Attfield, 71, lives in Morda but works in the town as a parking attendant at Sainsbury's.

He said: "It isn't very good at all. I'm on Vodafone and my partner is on Three but it is always very intermittent.

"It can be good, or it can be terrible. I think the thing is we just cope with it, you just walk to a different part of the house. You do expect to get a much better service when you pay so much.

"I'm actually on Pay As You Go, but I do think you should be able to expect a certain level of service.

"Our broadband at home is good, we are not too far away from the connection box."

Matthew Andrew, who uses EE, is 25 and lives in Llanfyllin.

He said: "I think it's alright really. I don't have any problems in the town. I use it mostly for calls and texting and the internet, but it has been pretty good.

"It's much better than it used to be. I've always been with EE and I think it's fine."

Hazel Aspden, 69, of Meadowlee, said: "Mine's fine and I'm with EE, but I don't know if everybody's is.

"Even just next door to me, their's isn't very good at all, but they are on Vodafone so it does make a difference.

"I think in town generally the signal is fine, but then even just in Park Hall I know someone else has real difficulties.

"I does sound like it is about where you are."

Most in Bridgnorth, unless they're lucky, can expect to get only intermittent signal at best.

Those in the town are fed up and are hoping this year sees some real changes.

Stuart Roberts, 30, from Highley, said: "I think it's dreadful. Someone told me recently that you get 4G now, but I barely even get 3G. I'm on O2 but it was the same with EE."

"It is good in town, I get three bars and 3G here, and I can make calls. The thing is I just prefer to use the landline now, it's much better than using the mobile and having no signal.

"It's the same with broadband, it is very slow. But the problem is people are small towns and small villages here, they just think it will reach us eventually."



Siblings Stuart and Emma Roberts say mobile phone reception in Highley is 'dreadful'

His sister Emma Roberts, 34, now lives in Stevenage, Herefordshire, where she says the service is much better.

"Here there have been improvements, but it's the improvement from not even being able to make a call, to only hearing intermittent parts.

"If I need to call anyone I have to go to the back of the house upstairs.

"I had my first phone when I was 17, and I'm now 34 and it's still terrible. I don't imagine it getting better.

"Just because people in smaller villages and towns expect less, it doesn't mean they deserve less."

Sally Butler, 55, of Highley, said: "We get very poor reception. I have to put my phone in the window or go outside to get any signal where I am.

"I don't think things have really changed. I'm on O2 and it is fine in the town but no, there's been no improvement. Broadband is still very slow too. There's not been much change there either."

Mike Greene, who lives in Diddlebury, said: "Mine got so bad that if I sent a text message, or received one from someone in a good area, that it would take four days to actually arrive.

"It really is that bad. I'm with O2 and it is dreadful, I don't use a mobile in the area anymore because it is just so bad, what's the point? I have to rely on a land line. Broadband

on the other hand is actually not a problem, it is quite good. It is pretty reliable.

"The problem is we can moan to our MPs but it's not in their remit.

"They can only apply pressure on the companies. It will only change if there are enough people to shout about it."

Rebecca Starr, 41 said: "I have no problems, but I do know that some people where we live in Bucknell they do have problems.

"Orange doesn't have much of a signal at all in that area, and EE is usually alright. We've moved to the area about a year ago but I know with broadband there were problems for quite a while.

"It was a real problem actually getting people connected. Now that's done people are generally pleased, we are only about 20 metres from the connection so our internet is brilliant."

Historically Telford has been among the best in the county for signal with phone users only complaining about a few black spots. This year it seems much the same. On the whole people are happy with the centre of Telford but still want to see those improvements made elsewhere. Julie Jones, 40, from Admaston, said: "It all depends on what part of Telford you're in. I'm on O2 and it is not brilliant but neither is Orange. That was really quite bad.

"We have seen some improvements gener-



Richard Attfield from Morda near Oswestry is not satisfied with his service



Mike Greene from Diddlebury – there's no point in using the mobile phone

ally I think, but not really that much. It seems fine when you're in the town centre, but then the retail parks really struggle. I think it's something you deal with, it's not something I really need and I wouldn't consider changing at the moment."

Beth Morgan, 23, from Dawley, said: "I'm with EE and it's alright but as soon as you go to Malinslee it's a complete dead zone.

"It's the same with O2 and Vodafone too. To be honest I think it's got worse. Since they upgraded the transmitter by Dawley it cut out the 2G signal which is all you can get indoors.

"I ended up hanging out the bedroom window when I was in Malinslee. It meant that any job application I made had to go in my landline which wasn't very professional when there are other people in the house.

"The problem is they just tell you that you're in a poor area for reception. It is not a good enough response. They were selling signal boosters but they cost so much money anywhere.

"There's no real response, it's deal with it, or move. If there was the support from the council or media it makes it much easier to get action.

"I know people that have actually moved because of it. My dad is a software consultant and his phone is his lifeline. His friend moved to Wolverhampton because he was missing so many calls because of the signal. He realised



Matthew Andrew, from Llanfyllin, says he is fairly happy with his mobile phone service

he was missing out on so much business it would be cheaper for him to move house than carry on."

Katy Perks, 24, from Donnington Wood, said she had similar problems with Three. She said: "It was mainly in the rural areas – Ironbridge, Muxton, Newport.

"It's as you go further out, it's much more intermittent.

"My friend in Muxton never gets any signal in her house at all, they've given her all these apps for her phone to try and boost it but they are no good."

Zoe Smith, 42, from Stirchley said she rarely gets issues. She said: "My signal's usually fine. I used to have problems with Three but now I'm on EE it's no problem.

"The thing is if you can't get signal there's not much point having a mobile phone."

In Newport it appears that things are looking up with the only issues being some strange difference in reception over just short distances.

The town now hopes to see better and more consistent broadband coverage.

Penny Pitchford, 62, of Trinity Mews, said: "I don't have any problems where I live but I do know someone has quite a lot of problems. "It's strange because it's in a short distance so I'm not sure why. I'm with Virgin Mobile and then Sky for everything else and it's pretty good."

Concrete polishing process offers many fantastic benefits

Commercial feature

Concrete polishing is carried out locally by Concretepolishing.co.uk.

Polished concrete is an industrial floor process but as it looks aesthetically pleasing and has so many benefits this is also becoming a choice for residential and retail properties.

Based on the industrial estate in Oswestry but covering areas nationally, Concretepolishing.co.uk uses top of the range Husqvarna concrete polishing tools and can offer a range of polished finishes known as Husqvarna HIPERFLOOR®. It is a complete concrete surface polishing system, which enhances the beauty, strength and abrasion resistance of concrete floors while reducing maintenance and costs.

The process can transform a range of new and old concrete floors. By mechanically refining the already hard concrete surface through grinding, polishing and chemical treatments, it can bring virtually any surface to a new level of beauty, functionality and strength. With different specified processes, a flooring solution can be tailored to fit any requirement – aesthetics, floor flatness, gloss and price. The concrete polisher can offer three types of finish for polished concrete floors such as industrial, commercial or premium finish which can be offered to residential,



Concrete polishing can transform old and new floors

commercial or industrial areas. Some of the finishes available are as follows:

Premium finish: A decorative, high-gloss finish for exposed aggregate floors. Premium finish is an indoor application that is ideal for showrooms, high-end residential properties and areas where flatness and reflectivity of the floor are top priority. The result is a surface that shines and offers exceptional durability. Its benefits include providing a reflective and decorative finish, floor flatness, extremely high quality and durability, hygienic and easy to clean and it is exceptionally resistant to abrasion.

Commercial finish: A medium-gloss finish for semi-exposed and low-exposed aggregate floors. Commercial finish is an indoor application aimed at retail areas, shop fronts and indoor

public spaces. The result is a floor that offers functionality and low maintenance but is still aesthetically pleasing. It is easy to clean and maintain, resistant to wear and spills, abrasion-resistant, slip-resistant and has a minimal lifetime cost.

Industrial finish: A low-gloss finish customised for industrial floors. This process is primarily an indoor application targeting large areas such as warehouses and department stores where flooring functionality is of primary concern. The result is a hardwearing floor that offers a safer and cleaner environment.

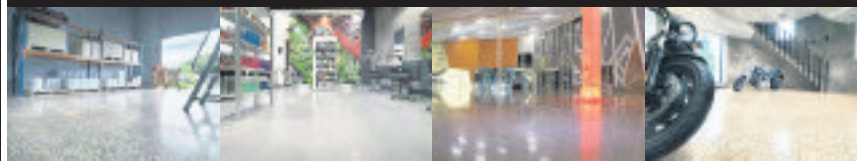
It has a minimal lifetime cost, withstands the toughest use, is slip-resistant and resistant to spills, abrasion, oils and dusting and is easy to clean.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Arrests are made after metal theft

TWO people were arrested and a vehicle was seized in connection to the theft of scrap metal in Mid Wales. Officers said the theft happened in the Gullsfield area, near Welshpool, but have given no details of those who were arrested at this time.

The arrests were made on Friday and prompted Dyfed-Powys Police to provide the public with tips to avoid falling victim to thieves. Police have urged the public to ensure any valuables are locked away and out of sight, as well as to remove any means of transporting metal or tools away, such as wheelie bins and wheelbarrows.

Another tip is ensuring fencing and gates are secure to prevent easy access to your property. People are also being advised to remove any means where intruders could gain access to your roof, such as water butts, wheelie bins, ladders and garden furniture, as well as to lock away any tools that could be used to break into your property.

School converts to academy status

A PRIMARY school in Oswestry has converted to academy status.

Holy Trinity Primary School on Middleton Road officially changed its status last month.

The move means it will now become part of St Chad's Multi Academy Trust within the Church of England's Education Trust.

In the next half term, the school will see a number of changes, starting with a new name as Holy Trinity C of E Primary Academy and Nursery.

There will also be a new website launching, as well as new signs put up at the school.

In a letter to parents, headteacher Pam Edwards said the school will be introducing a new logo to the uniform.

However she said the logo's introduction would be phased in as new pupils join and when uniform is replaced.

Rural economy 'being hit by school closures'

By Sue Austin

SCHOOL closures have damaged the economy of rural Wales and ripped the heart from local communities, it has been claimed.

Since 1999, 224 local authority maintained schools have been closed with rural areas worst affected.

Data drawn from the Schools Register show that Powys has closed 26 schools since the establishment of the Assembly in 1999.

Russell George, Montgomeryshire AM, said school closures were often extremely detrimental to community cohesion and often led to increased travel times. The average public travel time for Welsh children attending secondary school is 35 minutes.

"The disproportionate rate at which schools in Wales' countryside are being shut down underscores that the Welsh Government is failing to protect the interests of rural communities," he said.

"Too many good schools have closed their doors due to the policies of successive Welsh Governments and it is our rural areas that have been hit hardest."

"Not only have these closures caused heartache and disruption for pupils, parents and teachers, but they have damaged the economy of rural Wales and ripped the heart from some local communities."

"I fully appreciate that sometimes it's correct for a small school to close when the community itself comes to that view, but it is unacceptable that rural schools have been disproportionately affected by school closure programmes."

"No good school which is able to deliver the national curriculum should be forced to close without the agreement of parents, teachers and governors."

Councillor Phyl Davies, Mayor of Llanidloes, said: "If we want our rural communities to thrive then the Welsh Government must explore all alternatives to closure."

Launch of business hub is planned



From left, Michael Paul, SYST trustee, Clive Knowles, chairman of BIC, Michael Stoddart, president of SYST, Robert Bland, chairman of SYST and Richard Nuttall, business centre manager at the SYST

PREPARATIONS are firmly underway for North Shropshire to have its own entrepreneurial youth business hub.

Trustees from Shropshire Youth Support Trust are backing the scheme which aims to support young people venturing into business.

The British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry is now the chosen site as the base for the scheme, as it already

has a shared space scheme and there are fledgling businesses under its umbrella.

A working party is now planning a high profile launch evening which will be held at the ironwork centre on June 20.

There will be a special guest speaker and attendance is by invitation only.

It's hoped that business leaders

and professionals from across the North Shropshire area will attend to hear the latest plans for this aspiring charity that is dedicated to supporting 18 to 30-year-olds who want to follow their dream and work for themselves.

The evening will see several young entrepreneurs take to the stage to demonstrate how the charity has helped them succeed.

Drivers face weeks of delays as pipe work starts

MOTORISTS face weeks of hold-ups as major pipe replacement work is being carried out near Oswestry.

The project, totalling £98,000, started last week and is being carried out on the B5069 Gobowen Road, by contractors from Wales & West Utilities.

The firm say it is hoped the works are completed by June 4.

Peter Hughes, Wales & West Utilities operational manager for Shropshire, said although hold-ups caused by the work were not ideal, the work being undertaken was "essential" for the area.

He said: "We are working on Gobowen Road in Oswestry to upgrade old metal gas pipes to new plastic ones."

"This £98,000 investment is essential to keep the gas flowing to homes and businesses – and make sure the gas network is fit for the future."

"Our team are working as safely and as quickly as possible to finish this essential upgrade work with as little disruption to the local community as possible."

"In agreement with Shropshire Council, and so that the local community, road users and our colleagues are kept safe while we work, traffic lights will be in place as our work progresses."

"We know that working in areas like this is not ideal, but it really is essential to support the area into the future."

"Replacing old metal gas pipes can be challenging and depending on what we find as we continue our work, our plans may need to change."

He added: "Before starting this work, we wrote to all homes and businesses in the area, letting them know what to expect."

"Members of the public can also always approach the team on site with any questions."

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Oswestry & Border Chronicle
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Exceptional home offers quality living accommodation

An exceptional detached country home with some 6,600 square feet of quality living accommodation, Benvenuti, Morton, Oswestry is an individually designed home.

Well located a short distance off the A483 with excellent road links via the A5 trunk road through to the major conurbations of Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £950,000. With around 1.5 acres, its accommodation briefly comprises a full height galleried reception hall, generous reception rooms which overlook the gardens, a well fitted Kenton Jones kitchen, utility, cloakroom/WC, office, five bedrooms, five bath/shower rooms, laundry room, sauna and triple garage.

The master suite on the first floor has balcony access, as does the guest suite. There are three double bedrooms. Outside there is an attached triple garage with electric doors off the sweeping driveway with security gates off the road approach. A second secure driveway gives access to the external service area with outbuildings and storage facilities. The landscaped gardens extend to the rear and side and include a large natural pool with ancillary oxygenation if required and an ornamental fountain. A detached serviced Summer House and a detached Spa House overlook the gardens. In more detail the reception hall has a marble tiled floor and oak staircase. The lounge is triple aspect with a bay window overlooking the front garden and French doors leading out to the side garden, a feature fireplace with a living flame gas stove is set within a sandstone surround and hearth.

A games room has views over the rear gardens. A day room also has French doors set in a bay to the rear gardens, oak flooring and an air conditioning unit. The breakfast kitchen is stylish, fitted by Kenton Jones. It has a comprehensive range of base and wall units with granite worktops, a Belfast sink, water softener, a Range cooker with six ring burner and extractor hood, a matching kitchen island, integrated dishwasher, space for a large fridge freezer and French doors leading to the rear gardens. The utility room includes a Belfast sink and oak stable door to the rear. The rear hall and home office have oak flooring and the ground floor shower room has a three piece suite.

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OSWESTRY
£420,000

Superb spacious executive property has seven bedrooms

A superbly spacious executive detached residence, 15 Upperwell Close, Oswestry has seven bedrooms, three reception rooms and four bathrooms.

It is for sale through Town & Country at £420,000. Enjoying an enviable position within this most sought after location with superb views to the rear, its accommodation briefly comprises a porch, hallway, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen/dining room, study, utility room, seven bedrooms, two en-suite and two family bathrooms. To the outside there are gardens to the front and the rear with views. A detached double garage and double width driveway provides off-road parking. The property is situated in a sought after residential area of Oswestry, with close proximity to the town centre, with an abundance of shops and supermarkets.



A secondary school, primary school and doctors surgery are within walking distance. The property is also only a few minutes walk from open countryside.

In more detail the porch has quarry tiled flooring. The hallway has stairs off and an under-stairs storage cupboard. The cloakroom/WC has part tiled splash-backs. A lovely light room, the lounge has a large bay window with glazed side panels and French doors opening onto the rear garden, a decorative stone cast fireplace with an electric fire and French doors to the garden. The good sized dining room has a large square bay window to the front. In the kitchen/dining room, the kitchen has an extensive range of base and wall kitchen units in an oak colour with work surfaces over, integral wine fridge, integral Whirlpool dishwasher, 1½ bowl sink with mixer tap, Whirlpool double stainless steel oven, gas hob, integral extractor fan, tiled flooring, integral fridge/freezer, under unit lighting and part tiled walls. The study is positioned at the front and the utility has a sink, units, plumbing for a washing machine, space for a fridge and a door to the rear. Upstairs on the first floor, the master bedroom has wardrobes, a dressing table and an en-suite. There are five further bedrooms (one en-suite) and a bathroom on this floor. On the second floor are bedrooms six and seven and a bathroom. The rear garden is a particular feature of the property due to its size and orientation. It has a paved patio across the rear of the house, extensive lawn and views over the top of Oswestry and the far reaching hills beyond.

Contact Town and Country on 01691 679631.

Recently completed four bedroomed barn conversion offers ‘wow’ factor

KYNASTON
£575,000

>>>

Packed with the “wow factor”, Treginford Barn in the hamlet of Kynaston near Kinnerley is a recently completed four bedroom barn conversion within equidistance of some 10 miles to Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

It is for sale through Balfours at £575,000. Agent, Duncan Scobie, of Balfours said: “This is an exceptionally well designed conversion. While it dates back to the mid-1800s, its’ recently completed conversion provides a magic mix of character and contemporary. That is maximised through original oak timbers quite literally highlighted through the magnificent expanses of glazing.”

The wow factor is made the most of on the first floor with a magnificent gallery landing open to the glazed frontage. The master bedroom comes with fitted wardrobes and an en-suite, a further two bedrooms share the family bathroom. Duncan added: “The conversion has been beautifully executed with excellent craftsmanship and use of materials. At ground level there is underfloor heating with oak or limestone tiled floors throughout.”

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



Super Georgian country house has lawns and tennis court

OSWESTRY
£1,250,000

<<<

A fully restored Georgian country house adjoining parkland and open countryside, Pen-y-Llan Hall on the edge of Oswestry is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £1,250,000.

It has a vestibule, entrance hall, inner hall, drawing room, study, morning room, dining room, conservatory, cloakroom/WC, sitting room, playroom, kitchen, utility room, pantry and cellars.

It also has a master bedroom with dressing room and en-suite bathroom, four further bedrooms all en-suite, bedroom six, dressing room, two attic rooms, a bathroom, detached former annexe with planning permission for a workshop, stores, kitchen, cloakroom/WC, garaging and domestic buildings.

There are also lawned gardens and a tennis court and woodland of around 2.8 acres.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.

Spacious town house is sited in a quiet position near amenities

OSWESTRY
£159,950 >>>

A spacious town house with off-street parking, 24 Beresford Gardens in Oswestry is located in a quiet position within walking distance of the town centre.

It is on the market through JJ Dell&Co with a guide price of £159,950 and there is no chain. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and there is an entrance hall, cloakroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, front garden and two parking spaces. The property occupies a convenient position within the town only a few minutes walking distance into the town's shopping centre. The home is an end-terraced house traditionally constructed of brick under a slated roof. The accommodation has the benefit of recently recovered roof, gas fired central heating and pvc double glazing. Outside the property has the benefit of off street parking to the front, providing two spaces.

Contact JJ Dell&Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Home is a highly desirable detached family property

MOELYGARTH NEAR WELSHPOOL
£299,950

Cartrefle, at Moelygarth, near Welshpool, comprises a highly desirable and interesting detached period family home, with further detached single storey annexe accommodation, garaging, outbuildings and generous landscaped gardens and grounds extending in all to just under half an acre.

It is for sale through Halls for £299,950. The main house offers interesting and adaptable accommodation over two floors to include, kitchen, conservatory, dining hall, drawing room, study, two bedrooms and a family bathroom on the ground floor. On the first floor are two double bedrooms and a large loft storage area.

The annexe accommodation comprises, utility area, kitchen, sitting room, bathroom and bedroom, all on one floor. The two buildings are surrounded by the delightful gardens with walkways and lawned areas, decked area, low maintenance area, together with a wealth of plants, shrubs and ornamental trees. Outbuildings comprise a large garage/workshop,



Superb cottage with balcony is in location on edge of forest

LLANGADFAN
£169,950 <<<

Bliss Cottage, 4 Hendre, Llangadfan, is a delightfully charming two-bedroomed semi-detached cottage in a beautiful location on the edge of Dyfnant Forest.

Having a balcony, separate lounge and dining room, kitchen and wet room, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £169,950.

A number of external items may be available by separate negotiation including a wood fired hot tub, an attractive insulated "Hobbit House" with wood stove, a large timber shed and a timber potting shed/greenhouse.

From the paved patio the gardens lead across the front of the house with a raised lawn in a sunny position with good views. A pathway then leads to large side gardens with woodland beyond.

There is a stream-fed pond and a second still pond.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more information.



together with a selection of timber garden stores. One of the most notable features of the property is its location, being just outside of the popular village of Guilsfield and having lovely views over unspoilt countryside. The sale of Cartrefle offers a great deal to prospective purchasers, especially those looking for multi-generational properties, or separate guest accommodation or even a holiday let. The selling agents strongly recommend an inspection to fully appreciate what is on offer. The property occupies a rural location amidst rolling Welsh border countryside, with lovely surrounding views.

Contact Halls on 01938 555552.



Man jailed for six years over £1.5m fraud

A STRUCK off solicitor turned tax consultant and a founder member of a church has been jailed for six years after he fiddled clients to the tune of almost £1.5 million.

David Vaughan Jones, 78, was a founder member of the Evangelical Church in Newtown where he was regarded as a pillar of the community. Friends, fellow church goers and others trusted him with their money – but they never saw it again.

In October of last year, on the second day of his trial, he changed his pleas and admitted theft and fraud charges.

At that stage Judge Niclas Parry, sitting at Mold Crown Court, deferred sentence for him to repay those who lost their savings.

He claimed that the money was held in the Channel Islands and that he could compensate everyone.

But the court heard this week how despite asking for details of the bank accounts of his victims so that money could be repaid not a penny had been handed over.

Judge Parry said that the only conclusion he could come to that the funds did not exist.

Jones of Leighton, Welshpool, admitted 24 of the 39 charges originally brought against him. The charges date from 1994 until 2015.

Defending barrister Jeremy Lasker said that it was still his client's contention that the funds were available and since the last hearing he had been to the Channel Islands on five occasions. But he blamed other unscrupulous people for failing to obtain the money.

A Proceeds of Crime investigation will now take place.

Vandals wreck outdoor area

VANDALS wrecked a nursery's outdoor play area – causing hundreds of pounds worth of damage – in a “senseless” act carried out during the Bank Holiday weekend.

Heartbroken children at Kidszone Day Nursery, based at the Eastern Oswestry Community Centre in Cabin Lane, Oswestry, returned after the weekend to discover extensive damage to their playground.

The culprits – believed to have gained access to the playground by climbing over the fence – ripped down signs and children's work, pulled out vegetables that the children had planted in their vegetable patch, kicked chairs, dropped litter, as well as stealing baby play mats and a number of wind chimes.

It's thought a group of up to 12 teenagers were involved in the vandalism.

Devastated staff at the nursery were forced to keep youngsters indoors on Tuesday because of the damage caused in the playground.

The damage is expected to cost the nursery about £700. Nursery manager Kerry Davies said described the vandal's actions as “senseless”.

She said: “The children and the staff are absolutely devastated here. We just don't understand why anyone would do this.”

Closed school to be a nursery

A FORMER village primary school is to be converted into a nursery.

The site for Maesbury Primary School, which closed in July 2012, was put on the market last year as a potential development and came with a £325,000 guide price, with it now being confirmed that the sale of the site is in the process of going through.

The school closed its doors as Shropshire Council made cutbacks to its school provision, with the majority of pupils moving to Kinnerley Primary School.

Members of the community had unsuccessfully rallied in the hope of taking it on as a commercial building.

Councillor Joyce Barrow said: “There have been huge concerns in the community about the school, as it's been left to deteriorate in recent years, so this is fantastic news, and a real relief for residents. At the moment the sale is in the process of going through but I've been told the buyers are wanting to use the building as a nursery.”

Funding plan will help unearth castle's history



Last year's dig attracted many volunteers and unearthed some of the site's fascinating history

A GROUP of determined archaeologists are in the process of trying to secure almost £30,000 of funding in a bid to rewrite the history of Oswestry Castle.

In a new project, members of Oswestry Castle Research Project want to unearth the full plan of a medieval keep they partially discovered part of at their previous heritage dig of the

castle located behind Oswestry's Guildhall. But that excavation work cannot proceed without a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Roger Cooper, project director, said: “We want to find out more about the castle because little is known about it, and this castle is of national importance, it was a very important Marches or castle, and we believe we will be



The castle at the back of the Guildhall in Oswestry is an important part of the town's history

able to unearth more, even rewriting history from what we expect to find. We're also hopeful the project will see the partial recovery of the castle's outer defences, as well as carrying out more documentary research.”

At last year's heritage dig, the group attracted about 25 volunteers. Among the finds was an old musket ball. This year's excavation project is planned to take place between September 4 and September 26. In a bid to aid the funding bid, the group is looking to attract sponsors to help finance the project. Anyone interested in sponsoring the project or finding out more can contact the group's outreach officer Sue McGiffin by emailing smcgiffin68@gmail.co.uk

Initiatives allow students to widen their knowledge



Year 10 students at The Marches taking part in the drama workshop



Students from Oswestry School visited the British Ironwork Centre to understand more about business

Report by Naomi Penrose

YOUNGSTERS at schools in Oswestry have been busy taking part in various initiatives in recent weeks.

Students from the University of Chester recently visited The Marches School to deliver a drama workshop to Year 10 students.

Three second year university drama students led an hour-long workshop specifically prepared for GCSE drama students. Students from Oswestry School studying business and ICT visited the British Ironwork Centre to study its internal workings and its operational structure.

The ironworks was chosen by tutors for its unusual and imaginative multilevel platforms, where parts of the business operate in different areas and markets simultaneously.

Students were introduced to different departments and were given in depth explanations on how the business operates. The students got to learn about its history, its focus and of course, its ambitions for the future.

Two pupils from Oswestry School recently attended the ceremony for the High Sheriff of Shropshire's Outstanding Young Citizenship Award.

Sixth form student Will Simpson and first form pupil Tom Evans attended.

Will was singled out for his voluntary contributions at Shropshire Sailing Club, for his scouting, and for his enthusiastic embrace of the Combined Cadet Force.

Tom had been nominated for his charity work. So far he has raised donations in the region of £20,000. He was also chosen because of his personal success. Among other plaudits, he was crowned Junior Young Shepherd of 2016.



Tom Evans and Will Simpson with their awards



The Marches students taking part in the drama workshop

Bulgarian treats enjoyed by rotary members



There was plenty of Bulgarian dancing at the Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club international evening at The Last Inn at Hengeod. Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club held an international evening at The Last Inn at Hengeod. More than 80 people from the Bulgarian community in Oswestry and the local area had the opportunity to gather together to enjoy Bulgarian food, music and their own traditional dancing.



Members of Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club get ready for some Bulgarian food all these people from my culture and to enjoy their company for the evening. "The music and dancing went on till the early hours." Members of the Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club say the club is ready to welcome men and women over 18 from all professions, businesses and the local community. The Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club meets informally at The Wynnstey Hotel in Oswestry on Thursday evenings. For more information come along to hear what the new style of rotary has to offer or contact Mike Lade on (01691) 650854 or contact oswestrycambrianrc@btinternet.com, or see www.oswestrycambrianrc.co.uk.

College's annual fashion show raises cash in style



Independent living tutor Anna Thomas and independent living student Josh Turnbull enjoyed their time on the catwalk at the fashion show



College staff Corrina Cadman, Bev Parry, Jennie Best and Vicky Brayne modelled Dorothy Perkins clothes with hair and make-up by Visage students

Reoprt by Naomi Penrose

TOP styles were on display when the commercial services department at North Shropshire College in Oswestry staged its annual fashion show.

The show comprised the latest fashion from Dorothy Perkins Oswestry in the first half and during the second half students modelled avant garde images from around the world, based on the theme 'Around the World in 80 Days.'

All areas of the department contributed to the successful event. Plumbing students created a copper archway for the catwalk, floristry students created the table centre pieces, hospitality and catering students prepared and served a delicious two course meal and the hair and beauty students researched and created an image which included costume, hair and makeup.

Students from independent living and hair and beauty departments modelled during the evening as did staff from across the college. The show raised £500 for Hope House Children's Hospice.

Sharon Cooper, curriculum manager for commercial services, said: "It was an extremely successful evening, students and staff worked together to make the evening vibrant and exciting for those in the audience to watch.

"The event allowed students to be stretched and challenged and utilise a range of skills including maths and English to enrich the learning experience.

"We are really pleased to once again support a local charity with this money."

Anyone who would like to apply for courses in commercial services can do so via the college website at www.nsc.ac.uk



Level Two hairdressing student at North Shropshire College Ella Jenkins took part in the fashion show



Level Three spa therapy student Poppy Gordon took part in the modelling session at the fashion show at North Shropshire College

Game provides insight into business world

A MULTIPLAYER game that has been launched to help students navigate the business world is being supported by Powys County Council.

Business Battle, a novel and engaging multiplayer game that has been made specifically for the classroom, has been launched by Aardman and the Intellectual Property Office (IPO).

Now the council's Trading Standards Service is encouraging all secondary schools in the county to use Business Battle as a tool to help students navigate the business world.

Business Battle teaches the core principles of manufacturing a product, releasing it into a potentially crowded market and maintaining interest and profitability of the product with savvy marketing and strategic plays.

Inspired by classic board games such as Monopoly, Risk and Battleships, groups battle to achieve the highest market share, a strong portfolio of intellectual property and make the most profit.

It is specifically aimed around the curriculum that delivers interesting facts, relevant case studies, discussion points along with classroom and homework activities.

The user interface has a cool graphic style, designed to appeal to the core audience of key stage four pupils.

Clive Jones, the council's professional lead for trading standards, said: "A basic understanding of intellectual property is a key life skill for those leaving school or university to take up careers or start businesses that depend upon inventiveness and creativity.

"This ensures that the next generation is equipped with the knowledge it needs to succeed in a competitive world."

Group boosted by donation

A SHROPSHIRE-based group which offers support to families with children with autistic spectrum disorders has been given a cash boost thanks to a leading regional builder.

Persimmon Homes West Midlands has donated £1,000 to Empathy for Special Children to support its work.

The money was donated through the builder's Community Champions programme after the organisation was chosen to be one of two groups picked every month to receive a match-funding donation.

The scheme was launched in the spring of 2015 and has now donated more than £1 million to good causes across the UK.

Sam Goddard, spokesman for Empathy for Special Children, said: "We are a friendship group for families with children with autistic spectrum disorders or similar difficulties. Through our group sessions and family trips, we aim to lessen the feeling of isolation felt by many of these families.

"Money raised allows our playleaders to offer support and trips for families, provide activities for siblings and carry out 'independence-building' activities."

The group organises various fund-raising activities throughout the year, including holding Halloween parties and running a stall at a Christmas fair.

Air quality tests will be stopped

COUNCILLORS have agreed to stop monitoring the air quality outside a home on one of the region's busiest roads because the level of pollution has dropped.

Members of Shropshire Council's cabinet voted to revoke the Air Quality Management Area outside a house at the junction on the A483 at Sweeney, near Oswestry.

It has been monitored for pollution from passing cars and lorries for more than 10 years.

The order will now stop after levels of pollution had fallen and it was found they were unlikely to increase.

A report from Karen Collier, regulatory services operations manager, stated the air quality management area was declared in 2004 after it was found there had been a likely breach of the annual mean nitrogen dioxide national air quality objective of 40 µg/m3.

The report concluded that there had been no breach of pollution levels for 10 years.



Helen Rea, Jan Phillips, Angela Salter, Sheila Dixon and Clare Cox from Oswestry enjoy the occasion



Max Birchwood and Amy Morris were delighted to take part



Oswestry deputy mayor Vince Hunt was ready to fire things off

Run is a huge hit

Report by Naomi Penrose

OSWESTRY'S first ever half-marathon was staged on Sunday with 1,000 runners taking part.

The event started at the British Ironwork Centre at Aston on the A5 and runners made their way through the site before running through Oswestry. Runners were given specially made T-shirts and gorilla themed medals.

The medals had a gorilla theme to recognise the British Ironwork Centre's huge gorilla sculpture which was famously made for TV entertainer Uri Geller. Giant metal gorillas also guided runners around the course.

The sculptures from the British Ironwork Centre were used as mile markers.

Joe Williams, organiser and owner of Runchat UK, said the effort and funding put into Oswestry's historic sporting day was unprecedented.

To ensure the 1,000 runners were led through Oswestry safely, organisers arranged for a local police bike owner, Geraint Roberts, to lead the race.

Mr Roberts was among a number of local volunteers helping to make Oswestry's first half marathon a great success.

Clive Knowles, chairman of the British Ironwork Centre, said: "We will learn a lot from hosting this first half marathon."

"Next year we will implement all the finishing touches that will be needed to make it truly world class."

Oswestry's deputy mayor Councillor Vince Hunt attended the event and said the day had proved a huge success.

He said: "It was brilliant, a fantastic day."



Sarah McManus from the British Ironwork Centre takes a look at the unusual mile markers



Some of the hundreds of runners taking part in the half marathon



With the T-shirts and gorilla medals are, front, from left, Anna Roberts, RunChat's Joe Williams, Hazel Cagaanan, and back, Jake Roberts and Jess Webb



Joanne Stock and Wisha Gul say hello to a sculpture



Biker Geraint Roberts led the half marathon runners along the course



There were plenty of smiles from those taking part



Hopefully this one didn't use the Force to complete the course



Everybody made sure they were warmed up



The hundreds of runners were determined to complete the half marathon's 13.1 mile course



Shropshire Star editor Martin Wright ran the race in aid of Hope House Children's Hospice



Sarah McManus and Anna Roberts add a bit of colour to the day



Some of the 1,000 runners who took part in the first ever Oswestry Half Marathon on Sunday

Work on RAF training base to end in 2018

WORK on a new training centre at a Shropshire airbase is set to be complete by April next year.

The development is currently being carried out to build the new centre at RAF Shawbury. Last year a £9.5 million contract was awarded as part of a plan to build the training centre at the base.

Briggs and Forrester Engineering Services Ltd was handed the contract to provide mechanical, electrical and public health systems on the project. It will work with Kier Construction on a mixture of refurbishment and new buildings that will host squadron and training functions.

The new development will include a training school and a refurbishment of hangars on the site.

It will also be home to cutting-edge new flight simulators to help boost the training of recruits. It came after a new £1.1 billion contract was awarded in May last year to supply rotary wing training – effectively helicopter training – to the armed forces until the early 2030s.

Warrant Officer Nick Williams, spokesman for RAF Shawbury, said: “The contractor is currently building the new training facility at RAF Shawbury to allow them to operate their contract with a start date of April 2018.”

Most are given school choice

MORE than 90 per cent of youngsters have been given their first choice primary school following thousands of applications to councils in Shropshire.

In schools covered by Shropshire Council, 2,658 pupils – or 95.5 per cent – have been granted a place at their chosen school for September. The figure within Telford & Wrekin was slightly lower at 90 per cent. In total, Shropshire Council dealt with 2,784 applications for reception places, with Telford & Wrekin Council dealing with 2,183. In the Shropshire Council area, 3.1 per cent of youngsters have been offered their second preference and 0.4 per cent their third preference. In Telford & Wrekin, five per cent of youngsters have been offered their second preference and one per cent their third.

Karen Bradshaw, Shropshire Council’s director of children’s services, said: “We are really pleased that such a high percentage of pupils will be going to their first preference of primary school in 2017. Although there is pressure for primary school places across the country, this has not been experienced to the same degree in Shropshire, where there are only a few pressure points.

Work at market is now complete

OSWESTRY Livestock Auctions is pleased to announce the completion of its multi-million pound site reduction and improvement scheme with the final laying of the tarmac yard and roadways.

The new store cattle sales ring and pen-nage, calf sales shed, stock lairage shed together with a new office complex and cafeteria were built around the existing beef cattle yard and fat sheep yard which has also been covered, with the minimum of disruption to weekly sales.

The facility still hosts a spacious lorry park and a vehicle wash.

Bosses at the Oswestry market say the investment has been greatly welcomed by their customer base old and new and is seen as a long term commitment from the auctioneers to the local agricultural community.

Recent weeks have seen stock numbers buoyant, auction bosses have said.

There have been weekly Wednesday sales of around 3,500 sheep, 80 fat cattle and barren cows, 180 store cattle and 60 rearing calves.

National award for travel firm employee

A TRAVEL firm employee has won a national award.

Gary Smout is the foreign exchange cashier in the Hays Travel agent in Cross Street in Oswestry.

Mr Smout recently received the award for top performing foreign exchange business in Hays Travel, for the second year in a row.

Special Report: Safety

New hi-tech flying drones now a vital tool to help the work of emergency services

DRONES could soon be flying across the sky above Mid Wales more frequently as part of police operations.

The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) is a vital tool when it is used on certain operations, including searching for vulnerable people, road traffic accident investigations and other uses.

Dyfed Powys Police has teamed up with Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service to use their existing UAVs as part of an agreement.

Dyfed-Powys Police Sergeant Chris Neve said: “Mid and West Wales Fire Service are assisting us with air support, in addition to the

Report by Andrew Morris

support we receive from the National Police Air Service, by allowing us to use their specialist drone when required.

“We have used the drone on a number of occasions to assist in searches for vulnerable missing people, as part of road traffic collision investigations, river rescues and more.

“This is a great example of collaborative working in a time where emergency services have experienced budget cuts over recent years

“It is up to us to work together and work smarter to make sure we’re providing the best possible emergency services to the public we serve.”

Station manager Sean Lloyd said: “The UAV drones have been used by Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service since October 2015.

“We use them operationally at incidents that range from wildfires, large scale fires, fires in roofs and chemical incidents.

“We also utilise the UAV drones when working with the police during rescues from water and at height and searches for missing persons.

“We work in partnership with Dyfed-Powys Police across a broad range of activities and sharing our assets in this way, during emergency situations, allows both the police and fire and rescue service to share intelligence and stream line our efforts to effectively protect our communities.”

While drones are a useful tool in police work, forces recently reported they are experiencing a number of complaints over the illegal use of the devices.

Last year West Mercia Police recorded 175 drone incidents.

This was almost five times more the 2015 figure of 36 and more than 21 times the 2014 tally of eight.

Dyfed Powys Police has also experienced a steep hike in reports with one in 2014, three in 2015 and 35 last year.

In February this year an investigation was launched after a helicopter from RAF Shawbury came within 100 feet of a six-foot drone that was being flown 600 feet above the ground near the base.

Controlled burns cost fire service up to £40,000 a year

Report by Rebecca King

FIREFIGHTERS are being called to about a dozen controlled burns each month – costing the service as much as £40,000 a year.

The false alarms could be easily prevented if people registered when and where they were having these controlled fires, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service said.

It comes after crews attended four in just over 24 hours. Malcolm Stevenson, spokesman for the service, said crews were on average being called to more than 12 a month, but added the figure for April was above average.

With a single attendance costing about £280, the cost of attending controlled burns totals about £3,360 a month – or £40,320 a year.

He said: “The figures haven’t significantly changed over the last year. It is something fairly consistent but the better the weather the more controlled burns there are, but of course there is an increased likelihood of them getting out of control. We have to respond, and we do respond to everything.

“The best advice is obviously let us know that you are intending to have a controlled burn. We need to know where it is, what it is and when you are doing it, but more importantly when it is finished. The way to do that is to call us and speak to us here.

“The standard cost for a crew and all the equipment to attend for an hour is £280. It is the same cost for any kind of call initially.”

On April 17 at 8.40pm, one crew from Wellington spent just over ten minutes after being called to a rubbish fire in Newdale, Telford.

A crew from the same station was then called to Haybridge Avenue in Hadley shortly before noon the following day.

At 7.30pm that night, another crew attended a blaze on the A442 in Haw Green Lane, Peplow, near Market Drayton. A fourth call, to Admirals Close in Shifnal, was made just before 9pm the same evening.

All four were found to be controlled burns, costing the service up to £1,120.

Mr Stevenson said: “We have already received 13 this month, so I would say we are on course to make 20 at the moment.

“Clearly when you make a 999 call, the fire control room will try to glean as much as they can. That is when they make an informed decision how best to respond and what to send.

“Usually a single appliance is sent along to this sort of thing initially.”

To register a controlled burn, call the fire service control room on 01743 260200.

Nearly 200 people rescued by firefighters



Firefighters carrying out rope training at Blists Hill

NEARLY 200 people were rescued from harm or saved by firefighters in the last year, figures have revealed.

The data, from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, shows a total of 182 people were protected from harm or rescued by its crew since April last year.

According to the report, which went to a recent meeting of the service’s fire authority, 16 people were rescued from fire, while 65 were cut free from a vehicle following a crash.

Another 26 received first aid at a fire, while 17 were given first aid at the scene of a crash.

A further 35 were helped by crews in other rescues, as well as two people rescued from floods.

The statistics show a fall on the number of people rescued from last year, when the number of lives saved totalled 258. The year before that, in April 2014-15, crews rescued 312.

During the fire authority meeting, the service’s annual plan for 2017/18 was discussed.

The plan details targets for the coming year to make Shropshire a safer place to live, work and visit.

Councillor Stuart West, chairman of Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority, along with chief fire officer Rod Hammerton, said the service was working to continue reducing the number of calls.

The plan said: “We are working hard with our partners to reduce the number of emergency incidents each year and making sure that when we do need to respond, we do so quickly, professionally and safely.

“The continued reduction in call numbers tells us our focus on prevention is working but we are not complacent and we want to see that number continue to fall; particularly in areas where most harm can be done such as fires in the home.

“The next year will see us working hard, being innovative, listening and collaborating ever more closely with partners such as our councils, neighbouring FRs and the police to make this happen.

“In doing so we will strive to be the type of inclusive Fire and Rescue Service that reflects and serves its communities efficiently and effectively.”

The plan includes targets to see the first fire engine arrive at an emergency with at least four firefighters within 15 minutes on 89 per cent of occasions.

The service also aims to reduce accidental fires to no more than 490, accidental fires in homes to no more than 211 and deliberate fires to no more than 622.

● Meanwhile, firefighters from Telford have shown they have a head for heights by taking part in rope training at Blists Hill. Crews from Telford Central Station took part in the crucial training session at the tourist attraction.

A spokesman for the fire service said: “Blue Watch Telford carried out a bridging drill over a canal.

“This was part of work introducing the development firefightrers to different types of access.”

New funding programme aimed at improving lives

A FUNDING programme with £75,000 available to communities across Dyfed-Powys has been launched by the police and crime commissioner.

Dafydd Llywelyn is inviting applications from groups and organisations in Powys who would use the funds to help improve people’s lives.

The commissioner’s fund offers grants of up to £5,000 to charities, voluntary organisations and community groups so they can develop ideas that have a positive impact on the areas they work in.

Projects must reflect in some way the priorities highlighted in the 2017-21 Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Plan.

The priorities in the police and crime plan include keeping communities safe, safeguarding the vulnerable, protecting communities from serious threats, and connecting with communities.

A total of 21 groups and organisations made successful bids for funding in 2016.

A wide range of schemes were supported, including £5,000 for the Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership, £3,700 for Pembroke

Street Pastors, £5,000 for counselling for adult survivors of child sexual abuse, and £4,850 for garden tidy-ups through Age Cymru Sir Gar.

External funding manager Jessica Williams said: “We are pleased to be able to offer this funding to groups and organisations across Dyfed-Powys again this year. Last year we supported 21 diverse projects, all of which will improve the lives of people throughout the force area.

“We look forward to reading the applications and finding out the difference this funding could make to the people we serve.

“We are asking applicants to describe the outcomes they expect their projects to achieve, and how these relate to the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan.”

The funding is available to public sector, private sector, voluntary or community organisations and we encourage organisations to work together.

There is a maximum application threshold of £5,000 and applications higher than this will not be accepted.

The funding programme is open until June 2.

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Another suitcase, another hall –
Evita hits the Grand stage



Leading lights – Emma Hatton
and Gian Marco Schiaretti

Don't cry for me, Wolverhampton

It took Emma Hatton approximately 0.1 seconds to make a decision when she was asked to play the lead role in *Evita*. The actress and singer, best known for playing Elphaba in the West End production of *Wicked*, jumped at the chance to lead the line.

Having starred in major musicals, playing Donna in *Dreamboats* and *Petticoats*, she was thrilled to playing the lead in one of the greatest musicals of all.

Bill Kenwright's production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd-Webber's *Evita* is on the road following its smash hit run at London's Dominion Theatre. It will reach Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Tuesday and play until May 13.

Telling the story of Eva Perón, wife of former Argentine dictator Juan Perón, *Evita* follows Eva's journey from humble beginnings through to extraordinary wealth, power and iconic status. She is ultimately heralded as the 'spiritual leader of the nation' by the Argentine people.

Starring two of musical theatre's most outstanding leading performers; Emma and Gian Marco Schiaretti, who is embarking on his first UK tour having played the title role in Disney's production of *Tarzan*, audiences can anticipate a five-star performance.

Evita has more than 20 major awards to its credit and the Oscar-winning film version starred Madonna and Antonio Banderas. It features some of the most iconic songs in musical theatre, including *Don't Cry For Me Argentina*, *On This Night of a Thousand Stars*, *You Must Love Me*, and *Another Suitcase in Another Hall*.

Emma has enjoyed picking up

the baton and enjoys every performance. It's one of the most iconic roles in musical theatre. It didn't take me very long to say yes to that. I've never done anything like this before.

"I'd never seen a production of it but had watched the film many years ago. It was nice to come into the project. I knew the bare bones of it and had a grasp of what it was about. I've had the opportunity to learn so much about her story and the Argentinian history but I wasn't familiar with a lot of it before."

That knowledge gap proved advantageous to Emma, who was able to originate her character from scratch – rather than trying to imitate another actress's performance.

"Because I haven't seen any of the productions, I don't have anything else to go on. I'm stepping into quite big shoes with the people who have played it before. But it would be detrimental to think too much about what they've done. I don't want to be caught up on others, I'd lose my confidence slightly. By approaching it myself, it's completely my own take."

FICTIONAL

Emma has led a varied career, playing in *Dreamboats*, *We Will Rock You*, *Wicked* and more. Her roles in *Wicked* and *We Will Rock You* won her a slew of Award nominations. But she's enjoyed getting her teeth into a real character, rather than a fictional one.

"I think it's a very well known show that was very well written and is well loved. To portray a real life character is a privilege and something to be respected. And both vocally and in terms of acting, it's been a massive challenge. I took the role as much to see whether I could do it or not. I like a challenge. It's something very different to what I've done before. From a performing perspective, it's important for people to see I'm versatile. Hopefully that will lead to a longer career."



I took the role to see whether I could do it or not... I like a challenge

The responses from theatre audiences up and down the country has been ecstatic. Emma's been revelling in the joy that her characterisation has bought. "I didn't realise how loved this show was."

"The audiences have been very full houses and seem to really love the show. You feel that warmth from the show. Long may that last."

And yet Emma will be keen to do something different at the end of *Evita*'s present run. While she lives and breathes every moment, she's tied to the diversity that's present in her career and relishes taking on different roles.

"I was the original cast for *Dreamboats*. I got to work with the writers and worked closely with them on the characterisation and the script. The music of that era was so gorgeous and then moving on to do *We Will Rock You*, then *Wicked*, gave me the opportunity to do something different. I enjoy that."

"I think there's a difference between being in the West End and being on the road. The routine is very different and the discipline has to be a lot stronger on tour because of the travelling and what it takes out of your body. To be on the road, you're living out of a suitcase and are away from your family. You need more strength of character. You're away from loved ones and your own bed. But you get to go to your beautiful cities and see beautiful theatres. And every part of the UK and Europe has a very different vibe."

"I hadn't toured for a while so I was ready to get on the road and show the UK what we're about."

Another suitcase another hall. Emma's role in *Evita* is the classic case of life imitating art.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see *The Ticket* in your Shropshire Star every Friday.

Woods performance launches festival

World-class musicians will give an hour-long concert in the woods of Chirk Castle on Sunday, May 14 to mark the beginning of this year's Whittington Music Festival.

The open-air setting will allow the famous Elias Quartet to offer an atmospheric teaser for their week-long festival of music by Beethoven in Whittington church. Chirk's National Trust visitors will have logs to sit on to enjoy this Albert Hall-quality performance or they can just wander nearby as they choose.

Festival chairman Lawrence

Mortimer said: "In our fifth year, we decided we needed to get out more."

"We want to share the professional but informal buzz of the Whittington Music Festival with those who haven't discovered us yet."

The woodland concert starts at 2pm near the Hercules statue, or in the Castle Chapel if wet. Non-members of the National Trust will need to pay for admission, but the event itself is free.

This year Whittington Music Festival runs from Tuesday, May 16 to Sunday, May 21 and has attracted 15 international

musicians from seven different countries to stay in the area. As in previous years, the musicians will spend time in local schools, and will also work with young musicians from across Shropshire on a short arrangement of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony which they will then perform in public. Anybody aged 8-25 can attend any of the concerts free.

Tickets at £15 are for sale at Rowanthorn in Oswestry or Whittington Post Office. They may also be bought online at www.whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk where there are full programme details or ordered by post.



Coming up

Enjoy some darkness and light

Acclaimed, multi-platinum selling, Oscar, Golden Globe and Grammy Award winning singer/songwriter John Legend will return to Europe to embark on his biggest tour yet this September and October.

The 'Darkness and Light' tour will arrive in Europe for a 24-show jaunt of the continent, hitting the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on September 20.

The news of the tour comes as John announces 'Surefire' – the second single to be lifted from the album 'Darkness and Light,' which was released to critical acclaim in December 2016.

'Surefire' will follow the album's lead single 'Love Me Now', which has garnered over 157,000,000 Spotify streams worldwide, with the official video being viewed over 88,000,000 times on YouTube.

Since the release of 'Darkness and Light,' John Legend has co-executive produced and starred in the box office smash 'La La Land,' which has gone on to win seven Golden Globe Awards and six Academy Awards, and performed the title track to the recent remake of 'Beauty and the Beast' with Ariana Grande.

The new album 'Darkness and Light' is available now to buy. Tickets for the Barclaycard Arena date are on general sale now from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.



Leading artists to throw open their studio doors

Artists around the Oswestry area will be throwing their working studios open to the public later this year to allow people to see them at work.

The Borderland Visual Arts group says that at a challenging time, when exhibition spaces and galleries are closing, the annual event is a chance for the public to see the work of their members.

Open Studios, 2017 will run on the weekends of June 10 and 11 and June 17 and 18 from 10am until 5pm.

Visitors can tour 15 studios, free of charge, that will show the work of 30 artists.

One of the organisers, photographer and jewellery maker, Graham Mitchell, said that the event first started in 1999.

"This is a unique opportunity to see high quality art on display and to meet talented artists working in their studios. The accompanying group exhibition at the Willow Gallery presents a rich variety of work by emerging and established artists and will make it the largest showcase of work by the BVA," he said.

"The 60 members of the BVA work in a broad spectrum of art-forms. As well as painting and drawing, members work in textiles, printmaking, woodcarving and photography. There are ceramicists, sculptors, and jewellers too. Most of the works on display are for sale, making this a great opportunity to buy an original piece of artwork at an affordable price. The preview event of the group show, at the Willow Gallery on the afternoon of June 3, is an ideal opportunity to meet the artists, see and buy work and is open to everyone.

New for this year, the Open Studio event encourages visitors to create their own unique souvenir, by collecting a miniature original print from a hand-cut block at each studio they visit with designs inspired by the location or artwork displayed there.

Promotional postcards have also been distributed throughout Shropshire and Mid Wales.

Myra Ryan is one of those taking part in the Open Studios initiative supported by artists in the Oswestry area



New fair will take place at show

A new fair will run alongside a popular international show this year.

The Weston Park Model Show, which will be held from June 16 to 18, will feature the first dedicated Quad Copter and FPV Drone Fair, presented by the Wrekin Model Flying Club.

On both the static and flying displays, will be the latest equipment including small micro-copters and large and powerful professional machines.

Experts will be on hand to answer questions on all aspects of this latest addition to miniature aviation.

A large audience is anticipated to attend for the three separate show arenas, the Main Show Line, the Helifest Park, and the Quadcopter Fair.

A Seba Silvestri from Italy will also be at this year's event, making it the first in the UK to welcome it.

Flyers from the UK, Europe and the US will be at Weston Park for the annual model event, starting on June 16 at 10.30am.

For further details on the fair visit www.westonparkmodelairshow.co.uk

There will be more than 100 trade stalls and amusements along with fun fair rides and a rocket school for children to have a go building and flying models.

Camping will be available on site and there will be entertainment on Friday and Saturday night.



Biggest ocean race to return

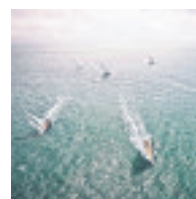
The biggest round-the-world ocean race is to return to Liverpool with the start and finish of the unique global challenge moving back to the River Mersey on the tenth anniversary of its last partnership with the region.

The 2017-18 edition of the famous Clipper Round the World Yacht Race will set sail from Albert Dock, Liverpool, on Sunday, August 20 and return approximately 11 months later in summer 2018.

Legendary yachtsman Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, the first person to sail solo non-stop around the world in 1968-9 and founder of the Clipper Race, said: "We are thrilled to announce that the Clipper Race is returning to the historic city of Liverpool. A significant site for UK maritime history, I fondly remember the warm reception we received when Liverpool last hosted the Clipper Race and am looking forward to returning to Albert Dock again this August."

"The Clipper Race has grown enormously in number of participants, yacht entries, economic influence and media value since it was last hosted by Liverpool a decade ago and we are looking forward to putting on an even bigger show in the city this time, which will not just have significant local economic impact, but will also put a maritime spotlight on the city all around the world."

The Clipper Race now consists of 12 large 70-foot modern racing yachts sailed by 700 amateur crew.



NOTICE BOARD

(info@willowgalleryoswestry.org) for further details and an entry form.

* THE Time Flies Theatre Company will visit Oswestry tomorrow (Friday) to regale the audience with an evening of poetry, fun and food for thought.

New works by Shropshire poets Owen Lewis, David Wright and David Phillips are presented by the company's resident actors. Accompanied by original music, the show explores issues in our lives in a way that is accessible, funny, interesting and poignant. 'Sandwiched' into the middle of the show will be an 'open-mic' slot where you are invited to read your

own work even if you have never read a poem in public before. Specialising in bringing theatre to audiences in small, intimate and sometimes unconventional settings, Time Flies are fast garnering a faithful following, engaging with poetry lovers right across the county. Tickets cost £8 and the event starts at 7.30pm at the Willow Gallery in Oswestry.

* THE Allegri Quartet returns to Llanfyllin in the summer for four concerts in the town's St Myllin's Church as part of the Llanfyllin Music Festival.

There is a varied programme, with some classical favourites and pieces not played before at the festival. For the last concert the Allegri will be joined by two guest players for sextets by Brahms and Richard Strauss. Festival chairman

Margaret Clennett said: "I am very enthusiastic about this year's choice of music. I am a particular fan of Mozart, and we feature three of his pieces this year. People will immediately recognise the poignant Adagio by Barber – even if they don't know its name." The concerts will be taken place on July 21, 23, 28 and 30. Ticket prices have not risen for the past two years and those booking before the end of May can enjoy an early bird price of £15. There are also reductions if you book all four concerts - £54 for the early bird.

Festival organisers are asking individuals and businesses to sign up as friends or benefactors. Details of the subscription scheme are on the festival website www.llanfyllinfestival.org.uk

* THE Willow Gallery in Oswestry is currently running its Spring Open exhibitions that include paintings, textiles, sculpture and photographs.

The exhibition, at the gallery in Willow Street, includes work by a group of Aberystwyth Illustrators, an informal collective of creative artists based in or with connections to North Ceredigion. It also includes the return of the Fiery Felters, a group of gifted felt artists, and the gallery is also exhibiting works by young artists new to the gallery. The exhibition closes on May 27. The gallery's Summer Open exhibition runs from July 8 to September 16. The exhibition is open to paintings, textiles, printmaking, batik, drawing, mixed media, photographic work and sculpture. Contact the Gallery

May 6



Casualty
8.05pm
Louise confronts Jez about his infidelity, but when he comes clean and reveals his secret squeeze is Mickey, she is left stunned. A revelation about the events of the previous week leaves Ethan reeling, and Charlie makes it is personal mission to restore the spirits of everyone in the ED.



Japan's Northern Wilderness
6.25pm
Part one of two. Naturalist Steve Backshall and Olympic gold medal-winning rower Helen Glover embark on an adventure through Japan's northern highlands. The couple, newly married as they filmed this two-part documentary, set out on a route that sees them taking in ancient pilgrimage routes.



Britain's Got Talent
8pm
Another selection of would-be stars are given a chance to demonstrate their unique talents, as the fourth round of auditions gets under way. As always, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon will beckon each act into the spotlight, where they must show off their skills.



The Restoration Man
7pm
George Clarke revisits Dave and Margaret Hedley, hoping to see what progress has been made on their plan to restore a derelict 17th-century water mill in Northumberland. After eight years toiling away at the project, Dave and Margaret have seen off historic levels of flooding and a devastating illness.



NCIS
7.45pm
A US Navy Public Affairs Officer is killed, and when the team takes up the case, both the man's wife and his mistress emerge as potential suspects. Each woman offering a very different take on the chain of events that led to the murder. Mark Harmon and Michael Weatherly star.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Live. Welsh fashion designer David Emanuel joins host Matt Tebbutt in the kitchen to sample dishes prepared by guest chefs Pamela Brunton and Jason Atherton.
11.30	Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. The cook visits Guildford Farmer's Market. (R)
12.00	Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's football, which includes Arsenal v Manchester United and the final weekend of the regular Championship and League Two seasons.
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Usain Bolt: The Final Chapter. Steve Cram speaks to the legendary sprinter.
1.45	Athletics: Diamond League Qatar Highlights. Gabby Logan presents action from the opening Diamond League event of the season, held at the Hamad Bin Suhaim Stadium in Doha, Qatar.
2.45	Bargain Hunt. Two teams compete in Edinburgh. (R)
3.45	Escape to the Country. A couple search for a country home to suit their business plans. (R)
4.30	Final Score. A round-up of this afternoon's football results.
5.30	Who Dares Wins. Game show in which strangers pair up to win money.
6.10	BBC News.
6.20	Midlands Today; Weather.
6.30	Pointless Celebrities. Richard Park, David Grant, Ben Forster, Danielle Hope, Patti Boulaye, Nina Myskow, Jamie Raven, and Ashleigh and Pudsey take part in a talent-show themed edition of the quiz.
7.20	Doctor Who. Bill moves into a new house with her friends, complete with creaking floorboards, a creepy landlord, and a strangely inaccessible tower at its heart. Guest starring David Suchet.
8.05	Casualty. Louise is shocked when she discovers the identity of Jez's secret lover, and Charlie makes it is personal mission to restore the spirits of everyone in the ED.
9.00	Michael McIntyre: Happy & Glorious. The comedian once again takes aim at some of the absurdities of everyday life, in a stand-up performance recorded at the O2, as part of his 2015 tour of the UK and Ireland.
10.00	BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.20	Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Swansea City v Everton at the Liberty Stadium and Hull City v Sunderland at the KCOM Stadium.
11.40	Murder in Successville. A radioactive monster seems to be on the loose in Successville, and DI Sleet enlists the aid of new assistant Lorraine Kelly to get to the bottom of the mystery.
12.10	FILM: Flatliners (1990). Supernatural thriller, with Kiefer Sutherland, Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon.
2.00	Weather for the Week Ahead.
2.05	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.25	FILM: That's Entertainment! III (1994). Compilation of MGM musical highlights, featuring Gene Kelly.
8.20	Talking Pictures: Musicals. (R)
9.05	FILM: Silk Stockings (1957). Musical, starring Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse.
11.00	Monty Hall's Great Hebridean Escape. (R)
12.00	Great British Menu. Three chefs from London and the South East compete. (R)
12.30	Great British Menu. The chefs prepare fish dishes. (R)
1.00	Great British Menu. The London and South East chefs prepare main courses. (R)
1.30	FILM: 4 for Texas (1963). Comedy Western, starring Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra.
3.20	Trust Me, I'm A Vet. A team of practicing vets seek out the very best advice for taking care of your pet. (R)
4.20	Flog It! The teams value items at Weston Park on the Shropshire-Staffordshire border. (R)
4.55	Gardeners' World. (R)
5.25	Springwatch in Japan: Cherry Blossom Time. Japan's national tradition of flower watching. (R)
6.25	Japan's Northern Wilderness. Part one of two. Steve Backshall and Helen Glover explore the Japanese landscape.
7.20	Trump on Culture: Brave New World? Alastair Sooke visits the US to investigate what impact President Donald Trump's plans to scrap federal funding for the arts might have on the nation's cultural landscape.
8.00	Grand Tours of Scotland. Paul Murton explores the rise of the seaside as a popular tourist destination, travelling from St Andrews via the Firth of Forth to North Berwick and Edinburgh. Last in the series.
8.30	Dad's Army. The men of the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard platoon take charge when a large naval gun is delivered to the church hall. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)
9.00	FILM: Nightcrawler (2014). Premiere. A petty crook goes into business filming crime and accident scenes and selling the footage to news broadcasters. Crime drama, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Rene Russo.
10.50	QI XL. Jimmy Carr, Aisling Bea and Danny Bhoy compete alongside resident panellist Alan Davies, as question master Stephen Fry muddles through the middle show of the middle series.
11.35	Versailles. Princess Palatine gets a cold reception in the bed of her new husband Philippe, while young Sophie learns her destiny lies in an even crueller match – by order of King Louis; (R) Inside Versailles. As part of a closer look at the drama series, Kate Williams and Greg Jenner shine a light on Philippe's new bride Liselotte. (R)
12.35	FILM: The Big Kahuna (1999). Drama, starring Kevin Spacey.
2.00	This Is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street 6.25 Sooty 6.35 Signed Stories: Share a Story 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Marvel Avengers Assemble 7.30 Thunderbirds Are Go 7.55 NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu
8.25	ITV News.
8.30	Weekend. With guests Mark Foster and Tom Lister.
9.25	ITV Racing: The Opening Show. A look ahead to the day's racing at Newmarket.
10.20	Judge Rinder. Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
11.20	Tippling Point. Game show. (R)
12.20	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.25	Bigheads. Contestants undertake physical challenges while wearing giant model heads of David Beckham, Ed Sheeran, Taylor Swift, Prince Charles and Queen Victoria. With Jason Manford. (R)
1.30	ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket. Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present coverage of today's race meetings at Newmarket and Goodwood, including this year's running of the 2000 Guineas at 3.35.
4.00	Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. Paul and the staff get the dogs ready for a visit from the Queen. (R)
4.30	Catchphrase. Guessing game. (R)
5.15	Britain's Got More Talent. Stephen Mulhern hosts the companion show to the talent competition.
6.15	ITV News Central; Weather.
6.25	ITV News and Weather.
6.45	Take Me Out. A firefighter, a barber, a test driver and a gym instructor try to impress 30 single women and win a date. Paddy McGuinness presents.
8.00	Britain's Got Talent. More would-be stars demonstrate their unique talents to judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon, as the fourth round of auditions begins.
9.15	The Keith and Paddy Picture Show. New series. Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness remake Hollywood movies, and begin by casting Jessica Hynes, Larry Lamb, John Barrowman and Kimberly Wyatt in Dirty Dancing.
9.45	FILM: The 40 Year-Old Virgin (2005). A man who has never had sex is set up on a series of dates, only to fall for a woman who does not want a physical relationship. Comedy, starring Steve Carell and Catherine Keener.
10.45	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
11.05	FILM: The 40 Year-Old Virgin (2005). Continued.
12.15	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	Who's Doing the Dishes? Former rugby player Martin Offiah tackles supper when he hosts a dinner party for four guests who can win a cash prize if they can guess his identity from cryptic culinary clues. (R)

Channel 4	
6.15	Mobil 1 The Grid.
6.40	Motor Sport: British GT. Action from Rockingham.
7.10	The King of Queens. (R)
7.35	Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
8.00	Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
8.25	Frasier. The shrink's radio show survives a stern focus-group test. (R)
8.55	Frasier. Daphne tries to avoid returning to England. (R)
9.25	The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon has to take care of Amy when she falls ill. (R)
9.55	The Big Bang Theory. Leonard fails to get Sheldon into the Christmas mood. (R)
10.25	The Simpsons. (R)
10.55	The Simpsons. Homer becomes a baseball team mascot. (R)
11.30	The Simpsons. (R)
12.00	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Gordon Ramsay tries to save New Jersey's Spanish Pavilion from failure. (R)
12.55	Come Dine with Me. Children's food educator Beth hosts the first dinner party in Suffolk. (R)
1.25	Come Dine with Me. Caravan park owner Ray hosts the second night in Lowestoft. (R)
1.55	Come Dine with Me. Beautician Polly opts for a fine-dining menu on the third night in Suffolk. (R)
2.30	Come Dine with Me. The fourth party of the competition in Lowestoft, Suffolk. (R)
3.00	Come Dine with Me. The final dinner party in Suffolk. (R)
3.35	A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. Searching for a property on Portugal's Silver Coast. (R)
4.35	Big House, Little House. Aidan Keane helps out with two loft renovation projects.
5.35	Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer search for two homes in Yorkshire. (R)
6.30	Channel 4 News.
7.00	The Restoration Man. George Clarke revisits Dave and Margaret Hedley, who set themselves the challenge of restoring a derelict water mill in Northumberland, for a second time.
8.00	Walking Through Time. Palaeobiologist Dr Tori Herridge and Professor Adrian Lister visit Shropshire to discuss analysis into the remains of five mammoths found in a quarry in 1986. (R)
9.00	FILM: The Fault in Our Stars (2014). Premiere. Two American teenagers bond at a cancer support group and go on a literary pilgrimage to Amsterdam. Romantic drama, starring Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort.
11.35	FILM: Ghost (1990). A murdered executive's spirit enlists the aid of a fraudulent psychic to help his girlfriend bring his killer to justice. Romantic fantasy, starring Demi Moore and Patrick Swayze.
1.45	The 80s: Ten Years That Changed Britain. (R)
3.05	Hollyoaks. (R)
5.05	Jamie's Comfort Food. (R)
5.20	Location, Location, Location. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey 6.05 The Mr Men Show 6.15 Peppa Pig 6.20 Peppa Pig 6.25 Wisper 6.35 Paw Patrol 6.45 Bob the Builder 7.00 Fireman Sam 7.10 Olly the Little White Van 7.15 Olly the Little White Van 7.20 Paw Patrol 7.30 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.00 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.15 Wisper 8.30 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 8.45 Shimmer and Shine 9.05 Little Princess 9.20 Peppa Pig 9.30 Peppa Pig 9.35 Peppa Pig 9.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10.00	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R)
10.35	Access. (R)
10.40	Caught on Camera. (R)
11.00	Police Interceptors. (R)
12.00	On Benefits: The Bargain Queen. A 60-year-old who loves her car-boot sales. (R)
1.00	On Benefits: Breadline Brummies. A single mum-of-five struggling to get by on income support. (R)
2.00	On Benefits: Cash-Strapped Couples. Including a debt-ridden couple who spend £12 a week on the homeless. (R)
3.00	The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. Residential disputes that have ended in murder. (R)
4.00	The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. Including a dispute over a shed that turned to violence. (R)
5.00	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Steve and Ben visit a tenant who owes £14,000 in unpaid rent. (R)
6.00	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. The agents chase £4,500 owed to a shipping company by a car parts dealer in Lancashire, and in east London, the officers try to collect over £2,000 owed to a housing association. (R)
6.55	5 News Weekend.
7.00	NCIS: Los Angeles. The FBI's domestic terrorist task force steps in to help the team when a former marine is suspected of creating a chemical bomb.
7.45	NCIS. A US Navy Public Affairs Officer is killed, and both the man's wife and his mistress emerge as potential suspects. Meanwhile, DiNozzo's father helps a homeless woman.
8.45	FILM: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991). An outlawed English nobleman recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure, with Kevin Costner, Alan Rickman and Morgan Freeman. Edited for violence and language. Includes a 5 News Update at 9.45pm.
11.45	Football on 5: Goal Rush. Action from the final fixtures of the regular season in League Two, including Luton Town v Morecambe, Hartlepool United v Doncaster Rovers, and Newport County v Notts County.
12.15	SuperCasino.
3.10	FILM: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt (2009). Crime thriller remake, starring Michael Douglas.
4.50	House Doctor. (R)
5.15	Wildlife SOS. (R)
5.40	Angels of Jarm. (R)
5.50	Roary the Racing Car. (R)



Antiques Roadshow
7pm
Fiona Bruce presents the show from Ightham Mote, a medieval manor near Sevenoaks. Objects brought in to be valued include a gold ring containing a lock of Lord Byron's hair, a pair of Chinese paintings, and a collection of postcards from 1916.



Great British Menu
11.45am
The two remaining London and South East chefs prepare their entire menus for judges Oliver Peyton, Matthew Fort and newcomer Andi Oliver, who are joined by Davis Cup captain Leon Smith. Together, they decide which contestant to send through to represent the region in the national finals.



The Durrells
8pm
Louisa struggles to adapt to Larry moving out. The thought of all her children leaving her drives her to set aside her doubts about pursuing a relationship with Hugh, which leads to a revealing conversation about Vasilisa. The younger Durrell children are not sure when their mother's birthday is.



Escape to Costa Rica
7pm
Gaia Vince visits Central America's largest hydroelectric dam and the exclusion zone of an active volcano and discovers how Costa Rica has harnessed one of nature's most destructive forces to provide electricity. She also goes white-water rafting to a remote eco-lodge.



When Magic Goes Wrong
9pm
A compilation of illusions that went spectacularly badly, including several cases where magicians nearly died for their act. Escapologist Spencer Horsmann nearly drowned three times performing his water tank act. Plus, mishaps featuring Dynamo, Paul Daniels and David Blaine.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
7.40	Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Swansea City v Everton at the Liberty Stadium and Hull City v Sunderland at the KCOM Stadium. (R)
9.00	The Andrew Marr Show.
10.00	The Big Questions. Nicky Campbell presents a debate on the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions from Manor CE Academy York.
11.00	Sunday Politics West Midlands. The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.
12.15	Bargain Hunt. From Heanor Antiques Centre in Derbyshire. (R)
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Homes Under the Hammer. Lucy Alexander, Martin Roberts and Dion Dublin examine a new build nearing completion in Chatham, a terraced house in Lincolnshire and a two-storey building in Worksop. (R)
2.15	Money for Nothing. Rescuing items from the skip in Altrincham, Greater Manchester. (R)
3.00	Escape to the Country. Highlights from Jonnie Irwin and Sonali Shah's property hunt in Wales with two couples who were searching for their ideal rural homes in one area. (R)
4.00	Points of View. Jeremy Vine presents a selection of viewers' comments.
4.15	Songs of Praise. Sally Magnusson presents the show from Gurnsey.
4.50	Pointless Celebrities. Famous journalists take part in a special edition of the unorthodox quiz show. (R)
5.35	BBC News.
5.50	Midlands Today; Weather.
6.00	Countryside. Reports on the latest rural developments.
7.00	Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Ightham Mote, a medieval manor near Sevenoaks, where objects brought in to be valued include a gold ring containing a lock of Lord Byron's hair.
8.00	Babs. Biopic of Barbara Windsor, following her life between 1943 and 1993, including her evacuation in the Second World War, her rise to fame and her marriage to gangster Ronnie Knight.
9.30	Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes tries to make friends with Dermot's mother-in-law Hillary, but the pair's dinner date comes to an abrupt end when Maria suddenly goes into labour. (R)
10.00	BBC News.
10.20	Midlands Today; Weather.
10.30	Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Liverpool v Southampton at Anfield and Arsenal v Manchester United at the Emirates Stadium.
11.40	The Women's Football Show. Tina Daheley and guests reflect on the weekend's FA Women's Super League Spring Series action, and look ahead to the Women's FA Cup final at Wembley.
12.15	Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.20	BBC News.

BBC2	
6.15	A to Z of TV Gardening. Carol Kirkwood looks at subjects beginning with the letter L. (R)
7.00	The Instant Gardener. Helen Skelton and garden designer Danny Clarke help a Barnsley couple. (R)
7.45	Gardeners' World. Monty Don gets to work in the cutting garden. (R)
8.15	The Beechgrove Garden. Jim McColl adds some half-hardy colour to the greenhouse.
8.45	Countryside. Ellie Harrison presents a compilation of reports on rivers. (R)
9.45	Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. Highlights of the series.
11.15	Great British Menu. The London and South East chefs prepare desserts. (R)
11.45	Great British Menu. The two remaining London and South East chefs prepare their entire menus. (R)
12.15	MOTD2 Extra. Mark Chapman presents football discussion.
1.00	Natural World. The lives of bottlenose dolphins in Shark Bay, Western Australia. (R)
2.00	Equestrian: Badminton Horse Trials. Clare Balding presents live coverage of the conclusion of the three-day eventing competition from Gloucestershire, as the riders compete in the show jumping discipline.
4.00	Rowing World Cup. Live coverage of the opening meeting of the season from Belgrade.
5.30	Flog It! The team heads to Tatton Park in Cheshire. (R)
5.55	FILM: The Terminal (2004). An Eastern European en route to America is stranded after a coup in his homeland, but makes a life for himself in JFK Airport. Comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones.
8.00	Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life. New series. The first of three programmes about the country's wildlife, landscape and culture explores the Sierra Madre mountain chain, home to black bears and monarch butterflies.
9.00	Dara and Ed's Road to Mandalay. New series. Dara O Briain and Ed Byrne explore South East Asia, travelling more than 3,000 miles from Malaysia to Myanmar as they forge their way to the historic city of Mandalay.
10.00	FILM: Kajaki (2014). Premiere. A group of paratroopers are pushed to their limits while trying to find a safe route out of a minefield in Afghanistan. Fact-based thriller, starring David Elliot.
11.40	FILM: The Reluctant Fundamentalist (2012). A Pakistani professor tells a journalist how he was driven to radical politics in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. Drama, starring Riz Ahmed and Liev Schreiber.
1.40	Sign Zone: Question Time. Topical debate from Wigan, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R)
2.40	Sign Zone: Holby City. Mo finds herself caught between pregnant patient Trixie and Derwood's overbearing mother, while Oliver's eagerness to impress causes friction between Bernie and Ric. (R)
3.40	This Is BBC2.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Bottom Knockers Street 6.10 Bottom Knockers Street 6.25 Sooty 6.35 Signed Stories: Share a Story 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Marvel Avengers Assemble 7.30 Thunderbirds Are Go 7.55 NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu
8.25	ITV News.
8.30	Weekend. With Brian Conley and Collabro.
9.25	Countryside. Features from south Wales, the Peak District and Snowdonia. (R)
10.00	Peston on Sunday. Political magazine.
11.00	Judge Rinder. Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
12.00	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.10	Britain's Got Talent. The fourth round of auditions begins. (R)
1.30	ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket. Coverage of today's race meetings at Newmarket and Hamilton Park.
4.05	FILM: Diamonds Are Forever (1971). James Bond spy adventure, starring Sean Connery.
6.35	ITV News Central; Weather.
6.40	ITV News and Weather.
7.00	Bigheads. Jason Manford hosts the game show in which contestants face physical challenges while wearing giant model heads of Victoria Beckham, Winston Churchill, Elton John and Will.i.am.
8.00	The Durrells. Louisa struggles to adapt to Larry moving out, and learns some shocking truths. The younger Durrell children are not sure when their mother's birthday is – so plan a party anyway.
9.00	Grantchester. The village is rocked by a series of armed robberies. Leonard witnesses the first raid and is able to identify one of the criminals – only for the man in question to turn up dead.
10.00	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.20	Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. Allegra Stratton presents a guide to the latest issues on social media. (R)
11.20	Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the final round of top-flight fixtures, which included Wasps v Saracens, Northampton Saints v Harlequins, and Bristol v Newcastle Falcons.
12.15	Lethal Weapon. After investigating the murder of a designer-drug dealer, Riggs and Murtaugh find themselves in a turf war between a new generation of dealers and a Koreatown gang. (R)
1.05	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	Motorsport UK. Highlights from Brands Hatch.
3.50	British Superbike Championship Highlights. Action from Oulton Park.
4.40	ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.
5.05	The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

Channel 4	
6.15	The King of Queens. Doug sees a therapist about his eating habits. (R)
6.40	The King of Queens. Doug organises a Super Bowl party. (R)
7.05	The King of Queens. Arthur gets a new mobile phone. (R)
7.30	Everybody Loves Raymond. Robert and Amy split up. (R)
8.00	Everybody Loves Raymond. Marie and Frank go on a diet. (R)
8.30	Frasier. Daphne's ex-fiance arrives in town. (R)
9.00	Frasier. Bulldog falls in love. (R)
9.30	Sunday Brunch. With guests James Cosmo, Jack Antonoff and Sam Faiers.
12.30	Eat the Week. New series. Simon Rimmer gives families culinary advice.
1.30	The Simpsons. Homer and Ned build a theme park. (R)
2.00	The Simpsons. Homer opens a nursery. (R)
2.30	FILM: Ghostbusters II (1989). Supernatural comedy sequel, starring Bill Murray.
4.40	World's Most Expensive Cars. Ant Anstead attends auctions in New York, California and the south of France.
5.40	George Clarke's Old House, New Home. The host tackles properties in East Sussex and Manchester. (R)
6.35	Channel 4 News.
7.00	Escape to Costa Rica. Gaia Vince visits the exclusion zone of an active volcano and discovers how Costa Rica has harnessed one of nature's most destructive forces to provide electricity.
8.00	FILM: Captain America: The First Avenger (2011). A frail volunteer is transformed into the ultimate soldier and fights for his country during the Second World War. Superhero adventure, starring Chris Evans and Hugo Weaving.
10.25	FILM: Prometheus (2012). A spacecraft travels to another world in search of aliens that may have created the human race. Ridley Scott's sci-fi thriller, with Noomi Rapace and Michael Fassbender.
12.45	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Chef Gordon Ramsay heads to The Greek at the Harbour restaurant in Southern California, where owner Makis Mikellatos works 17 hours a day, seven days a week. (R)
1.35	Millionaires' Mansions: Designing Britain's Most Exclusive Homes. The private world of luxury interior design in London. (R)
2.25	The Break Up. Cameras follow a relationship's break up. (R)
3.15	KOTV Boxing Weekly. Jorge Linares v Anthony Crolla.
3.40	Gillette World Sport. With Maxence Parrot and David Villa.
4.10	Mobil 1 The Grid. Interviews with Anthony Davidson and Neel Jani. (R)
4.35	Shipping Wars UK. Dave and Jenny transport a handcrafted rowing boat. (R)
5.05	Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer revisit a couple who wanted to set up a hot-tub business in the Lake District, and a pair who planned to run a hotel in the Highlands. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Mr Men 6.10 Milkshake! Monkey 6.15 Peppa Pig 6.20 Peppa Pig 6.25 Wipper 6.35 Paw Patrol 6.45 Bob the Builder 7.00 Fireman Sam 7.10 Olly the Little White Van 7.15 Olly the Little White Van 7.20 Paw Patrol 7.30 Blaze and the Monster Machines 7.55 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.15 Wipper 8.25 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 8.40 Shimmer and Shine 9.05 Little Princess 9.20 Peppa Pig 9.25 Peppa Pig 9.30 Peppa Pig 9.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.55	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Michelangelo befriends some new superheroes. (R)
10.30	Football on 5: Goal Rush. The final fixtures of the regular season in League Two. (R)
10.55	Caught on Camera. The use of CCTV to fight crime. (R)
11.25	Police Interceptors. A foul-mouthed pensioner pushes Barry's patience to the limit. (R)
12.20	Police Interceptors. Sarah deals with the aftermath of a drunken brawl between two brothers. (R)
1.20	FILM: Cats & Dogs (2001). Comedy, starring Jeff Goldblum.
3.00	Puppies Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring dogs. (R)
4.00	Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. Compilation of internet videos featuring cats doing bizarre things. (R)
5.00	FILM: Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (2012). Premiere. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Dwayne Johnson.
7.00	Cricknet on 5. England v Ireland. Highlights of the second contest in the two-match series, which took place at Lord's.
8.00	Football on 5: The Championship. Action from the final round of regular-season fixtures, including Nottingham Forest v Ipswich Town, Brentford v Blackburn Rovers, and Bristol City v Birmingham City.
8.55	5 News Weekend.
9.00	When Magic Goes Wrong. Illusions that went spectacularly badly, including stories of magicians' brushes with death, as well as mishaps involving Dynamo, Paul Daniels and David Blaine. (R)
10.00	Comedy Gold: TV's Funniest Ever Sketches. Compilation of classic comedy sketches from TV's most popular stars.
11.25	Football on 5: The Play-offs. Action from the League One play-off semi-finals, as the teams battled for a place in the play-off final at Wembley Stadium on Saturday 20 May.
12.05	FILM: Bangkok Dangerous (2008). Action thriller remake, starring Nicolas Cage.
1.45	SuperCasino.
3.10	Top 20 Funniest.
4.00	Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)
4.50	House Doctor. (R)
5.15	Wildlife SOS. (R)
5.40	Angels of Jarm. (R)
5.50	Roary the Racing Car. (R)

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11 SKODA FABIA ELEGANCE AUTOMATIC TSI HATCHBACK, BEIGE, SERVICE HISTORY 39K.....	£6,195	15 CITROEN BERLINGO, WHITE, 3 SEATS, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON., PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY 36K.....	£7,295
10 V/W GOLF S 1.6 TDI, 5 DOOR, MET. BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX 63K.....	£5,995	15 CITROEN BERLINGO, WHITE, 3 SEATS, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON., PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY 38K.....	£7,150
12 SUZUKI SPLASH SZ4, BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, £30 ROAD TAX 10K.....	£5,795	60 VAUXHALL VIVARO 2900 CDTi LWB, BLUE, AIR CON., ELEC. WINDOWS, FULL RACKING,AND SHELIVING, SERVICE HISTORY 49K.....	£7,195
61 CITROEN C4 VTR+HDI 91, BLUE, £20 ROAD TAX 49K.....	£5,695	12 TRANSIT 280 SWB, 100 BHP, 6 SPEED, SIDE DOOR, WHITE 56K.....	£6,995
09 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 53K.....	£5,184	11 V/W CADDY MAXI 102PS C20 TD FACE LIFT, BLUE, AIR CON., TWIN SIDE DOORS, RACKING IN REAR, SERVICE HISTORY 49K.....	£6,375
09 CITROEN C3 PICASSO EXCLUSIVE, GREY, PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY 51K.....	£4,995	14 RENAULT KANGOO ML19 EXTRA DCI 90 WHITE, AIR CON., REAR PARKING SENSORS, SAT NAV 32K.....	£5,995
12 NISSAN MICRA Acenta 1.2, 5 DOOR, MET. RED, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX 42K.....	£4,850	60 V/W CADDY MAXI FACELIFT LWB 1.6 TDI, BLUE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, ELEC. WINDOWS, AIR CON., RACKING IN REAR, SERVICE HISTORY 64K.....	£5,695
11 FORD FIESTA EDGE 1.25 5 DOOR, BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 53K.....	£4,825	6 PEUGEOT PARTNER PROFESSIONAL 1.6 HDi 3 SEATER, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON., ONE OWNER 54K.....	£5,595
10 CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE HDi, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL, £20 ROAD TAX.....		60 V/W CADDY C20 SWB 1.9 TDI 104PS, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 78K.....	£5,175
58 HONDA JAZZ I-VTECH EX, BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 52K.....	£4,495	11 TRANSIT CONNECT T220L, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ONE OWNER 53K.....	£4,495
60 FIAT 500 LOUNGE, RED, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., SUN ROOF, SERVICE HISTORY.....		14 FIAT DOBLO CARGO 1.3 JTD 90 BHP, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ELECTRIC WINDOWS 59K.....	£4,495
61 FORD KA 1.2 ZETEC, START/STOP, METALIC RED, SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX 36K.....	£4,595	61 VAUXHALL ASTRA VAN CLUB ECOFLEX 1.7 CDTi, WHITE, 6 SPEED, SERVICE HISTORY 78K.....	£3,995
10 SUZUKI SX4 SZ4, BLUE, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, ROOF BARS, SERV. HIST. 57K.....	£4,495	MOTOR BIKES	
58 VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 1.4, BLACK, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY 46K.....	£3,995	55 BMW K1200S, BLUE, BMW LUGGAGE, SERVICE HISTORY,RIEUJ RS3 125 LC NKD, PRE REGISTERED, INCLUDES FIRST REG. FEE AND ROAD TAX 41K.....	£3,695
08 FORD FOCUS ZETEC, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 75K.....	£3,795	NEW RIEUJ RS3 125 LC NKD, PRE REGISTERED, INCLUDES FIRST REG. FEE AND ROAD TAX,PRE-REGISTERED DISCOUNT OF £175 NEW.....	£2,996
56 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 58K.....	£2,995	NEW KYMCO SUPER 8 50cc, PRE REGISTERED, INCLUDES FIRST REG. FEE AND ROAD TAX, PRE-REGISTERED DISCOUNT OF £175 NEW.....	£1,496
08 RENAULT CLIO EXTREME 3 DOOR, BEIGE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 45K.....	£2,875	PART EX AND FINANCE AVAILABLE SUBJECT TO STATUS. WE BUY CARS & VANS FOR CASH	
59 CITROEN C2 VTR, GREEN, SERVICE HISTORY 49K.....	£2,495		
56 VAUXHALL ASTRA SPECIAL CDTi 5 DOOR, SILVER 74K.....	£2,295		
54 SUZUKI IGNIS GLX 1.5 4GRIP 4 WHEEL DRIVE, BLUE, ONE OWNER 84K.....	£1,895		

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JAGUAR SELECTION		54 FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr. Silver.....	£2495
04 JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5 AUTO AWD, Blue metallic.....	£2450	CONVERTIBLES	
52 JAGUAR S TYPE AUTO Leather, Low Miles.....	£3995	04 VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT, Silver.....	£1295
V JAGUAR XK8 Low Mileage, Silver, MUST BE SEEN.....	£50A	03 FORD STREET KA Blue Convertible.....	£1795
60 SEAT LEON SE CR TDi ECO, Silver, Diesel.....	£4995	4X4/ COMMERCIALS	
CAR OF THE WEEK		08 HONDA CRV 2.0 ES V-Tec AUTO, Red.....	£4595
64 CITROEN DS3 STYLE Plus HDi Convertible, Deep Plum Metallic, Alloys, Low Mileage must be seen.....	£8795	00 CITROEN BERLINGO 1.6 HDi Enterprise, Blue.....	£3995
08 VW JETTA SE TDI 140, Black Service History.....	£3795	05 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT, DIESEL, Silver.....	SOLD
11 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC Black.....	£4495	04 RENAULT KANGOO TREKKER 4x4.....	£1395
68 BMW X3 2.0 DIESEL Black.....	£5175	53 PEUGEOT PARTNER QUIKSILVER MPV.....	£1,895
07 BMW 116 SE 77k, Service History.....	£4395	52 HONDA CRV 2.0, Silver.....	£1750
63 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.4 GLAM, Winter Pack.....	SOLD	CHEAP AND CHEERFUL/PART EXCHANGE BARGAINS	
61 VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE 1.2 Red, lady ownerOnly.....	£3995	09 FIAT PUNTO, Black.....	£1450
60 VAUXHALL CORSA Ecoflex Silver, 35K.....	£3995	06 FORD MONDEO TITANIUM Diesel, High Mileage.....	£1995
59 CITROEN C3 AIRDREAM + HDi Diesel, Cheap Road Tax.....	£3595	03 PEUGEOT 307, Diesel.....	£750
09 FIAT 500 POP 1.2. White.....	£3895	W BMW 318 Saloon, Lots of History, Previously Supplied by us	
58 CITROEN C3 RHYTHM 1.4 HDi Diesel, Black.....	£2195	LOW COST FINANCE AVAILABLE	£395
68 BMW 118 SE Diesel, Grey Metallic.....	£5595	Finance Example: Cash Price £3995	
06 TOYOTA YARIS T SPiRIT 1.3, Silver, Beautiful Condition, MP3 Player.....	£3175	Deposit or Part Exchange: £500 Balance £2495	
56 VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic.....	£2895	Payable over 48 months at £35.45 per month (APR 16.4%)	
06 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA Active 1.6, low mileage, beautiful car.....	£3125	<small>Subject to status, finance and conditions apply. If your car is worth more than the deposit price, we will give you the difference back in cash.</small>	



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MOTURING



The Santa Fe Endurance Edition sits at the top of Hyundai's range

Unleash your inner endurance explorer

Hyundai Motor UK has launched a highly-equipped SUV perfect for those who consider every drive an expedition – the Santa Fe Endurance Edition.

Sitting at the top of Hyundai's range, it celebrates a recent history-making drive by Patrick Bergel, the great grandson of legendary polar explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton.

In December 2016, Bergel completed a 30-day expedition in a near-standard 2.2-litre diesel Santa Fe, driving across Antarctica from Union Camp to McMurdo and back again, commemorating the centenary of Shackleton's heroic Trans-Antarctic expedition of 1914-16.

This was the first time a passenger vehicle had ever traversed the Antarctic continent and the standard 2.2-litre Santa Fe used by Bergel featured only a handful of modifications to counter the tough Antarctic conditions, such as the fitment of large, low-pressure tyres, a 250-litre fuel tank and a pre-heater for the cold.

To commemorate this

incredible achievement, Hyundai Motor UK will make just 500 Endurance Edition models available.

Each car is based on the 2.2 diesel seven seat 4WD Automatic Santa Fe in Premium SE trim with Convenience Pack, which boasts Smart Electric Tailgate, Panoramic Sunroof, Autonomous Emergency Braking, Smart Cruise Control and Around View Monitor.

In addition, the Santa Fe Endurance will also feature additional special equipment.

Customers can choose from five limited colours: solid Creamy White, pearl White Crystal, metallic Titanium Silver, pearl Phantom Black and metallic Mineral Blue – the same colour as that of Bergel's expedition car.

Endurance Editions are further marked out by 19-inch alloy wheels – wrapped in 235/55 R19 tyres – Side Bar Sport running steps.

The final touch is a special Endurance logo, which can be found on the B-pillar and interior floor mats. Survived

The eye-catching logo commemorates Shackleton's Endurance expedition and features the Shackleton Family Motto and a 28-point compass representing the 28 crew that survived.

The Santa Fe Endurance will be priced at £38,995, representing a saving of £2,400 over a standard Premium SE with Convenience Pack and Automatic transmission and can be ordered from 18 May 2017.

Tony Whitehorn, president and CEO of Hyundai UK said: "This new Endurance Edition offers customers an incredibly well-equipped Santa Fe, one that will be able to tackle everything family life throws at it... and more. As Sir Ernest Shackleton's Great Grandson, Patrick Bergel proved just a few months ago, with just a few choice modifications, you could even traverse Antarctica!"

Watch the epic film of the Antarctic



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Term of Loan:	60 Months	Total Payable:	£3900



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6 SPEED, 3 DOOR, ALLOYS,
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CAMERA, LOADS OF EXTRAS,
IMMACULATE CONDITION



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INSURANCE, IMMACULATE
CONDITION



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**FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI ZETEC
ECONETIC**
** FREE TAX *** ONLY 5000
MILES, 6 SPEED DIESEL,
ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
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WINDOWS, UPTO 60 MPG,
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ELECTRIC WINDOWS, 1 POD
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7 SEATER, ONLY 6,000 MILES,
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CARS OF THE WEEK

AUDI A3 2.0 TDI SPORT



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ALLOYS, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, POWER
STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, EXCELLENT
MPG, EXCELLENT MPG,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

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Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S4925

SEAT IBIZA 1.2 FR DSG



DSG AUTO, ONLY
16,000 MILES, ALLOYS,
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
1 POD CONNECTION,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

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CITROEN C1 1.0 VTI FEEL
** FREE TAX *** 3 DOOR,
UPTO 60 MPG, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS, LOW
INSURANCE, EXCELLENT MPG,
ONLY 18,000 MILES



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MAZDA 2 1.5 SPORT
3 DOOR, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
IMMACULATE CONDITION



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**HYUNDAI i30 1.6 CRDI
BLUEDRIVE SE**
** FREE TAX *** 5 DOOR, 6 SPEED
DIESEL, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR
CON, POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, 1 POD CONNECTION,
STILL UNDER HYUNDAI WARRANTY
TILL 2020, IMMACULATE
CONDITION, LOW INSURANCE



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**FORD FOCUS 2.0 TD
TITANIUM 140**
WHITE, 6 SPEED DIESEL,
ALLOYS, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS, 1 POD
CONNECTION, BLUETOOTH,
IMMACULATE CONDITION



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AIR CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
LOW INSURANCE,
EXCELLENT MPG,
IMMACULATE CONDITION,
ONLY 29,000 MILES



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New Fiesta caters for every lifestyle

Commercial feature

The next generation Ford Fiesta range offers a version for every lifestyle.

Priced from £12,715 for a Fiesta Style, the range continues through Zetec and Titanium to high-tech B&O PLAY series, luxury Vignale and sporty ST-Line models available this summer.

The Fiesta is launched with the most sophisticated range of driver assistance technologies and connectivity features ever in a volume small car in Europe, as part of the most comprehensive line-up of variants in Fiesta's 40-year history.

It is the first Ford to deliver an enhanced version of Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection that can detect people who are in or near the road ahead, or who may cross the vehicle's path, using light from the Fiesta's headlights at night.

Also offered for the first time on Fiesta is Ford's Active Park Assist with Perpendicular Parking, which helps drivers find suitable spaces and park hands-free nose-to-tail and side-by-side with other cars. Further enhanced for Fiesta, the technology can now apply the brakes if drivers do not respond to system guidance and proximity warnings while performing forward and reverse manoeuvres, and a collision with a parked car or obstacle to the front or rear is imminent. The most popular Fiesta variant is the Zetec, with 58 per cent of customers of the current model opting for Zetec.

Customers can purchase the next generation Fiesta Zetec from £14,215 with 15in alloy wheels, Quickclear heated windscreen and Ford's SYNC 3 DAB radio



The new Fiesta is part of Ford's comprehensive line-up



Stylish, it will also be offered as a Vignale model

with a 6.5in touchscreen with Emergency Assistance, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto as standard.

Ford is also launching a unique B&O PLAY series range available on Zetec and Titanium models offered in two striking exterior and interior colour themes – Bohai Bay Mint and Chrome Copper.

The new B&O PLAY systems – exclusive

to Ford's global vehicle line-up – offer an elevated audio experience with ten speakers including a boot-mounted subwoofer and a central mid-range speaker on top of the instrument panel, incorporating the B&O PLAY aluminum logo and a unique radiating hole pattern.

The stylish series also get the upgraded 8in floating tablet-inspired touchscreen and

The new generation of Fiesta comes with a new array of advanced technology

Navigation as standard and are available from £15,165.

The next generation Fiesta will for the first time be offered as an upscale Vignale model – part of the Ford Vignale range joining the Mondeo, S-MAX, Kuga and Edge Vignale. Priced from £19,345, the Fiesta Vignale features 17in alloy wheels, unique exterior body styling and front grille and distinctive

interior in Black Ruby leather, heated seats and steering wheel, panoramic roof and rear view camera as standard.

● Available to order now from Furrows in Telford, Shrewsbury and Oswestry. During this weekend's 'Fiestaval' Event, there are discounts of up to £2,000 on the current Fiesta and EcoSport.

FORD FIESTA, FROM £14,215



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1.5 TDCi 95PS



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- Cruise control

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) Highest: FORD EcoSport 1.5 Duratec (112PS), M5: Urban 34.9 (8.1), Extra Urban 54.3 (5.2), Combined 44.8 (6.3), CO₂ emissions 149(g/km). Lowest: FORD Fiesta 1.5 Duratec (95PS) Stop-Start, M5: urban 83.1 (3.4), extra urban 94.2 (3.0), combined 88.3 (3.2). Official CO₂ emission 82g/km. Retail only subject to availability. The Finance Deposit Allowance is only available when financed with Ford Credit. *Finance subject to status to UK residents aged 18 or over through Ford Credit. Guarantees/indemnities may be required. An Excess Mileage Charge will be payable if you decide to return the vehicle & the agreed annual mileage has been exceeded. Please note calls may be recorded for training & quality purposes. Furrows Group Ltd are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority as a credit broker but not as a lender. Prices & details correct at time of publishing. £ & pence, and are subject to change without notice.

Ludlow Thursday Dominoes

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Blue Boar	2	2	0	15	3	6
Swan	2	2	0	13	5	6
Jockey	2	2	0	10	3	3
Castle	2	2	1	9	9	3
Tavern	2	2	1	9	9	3
Differs	2	2	0	2	9	10
Swan	2	2	0	2	9	10
Bridge	2	2	0	2	9	10

Clee Hill Domino League

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Cross	3	2	1	13	8	4
THSV	3	2	1	13	8	4
Wanderers	3	2	1	13	8	4
Live & Let	3	2	1	11	10	4
Bel A	3	2	1	10	11	4
Fighting Cocks	3	2	0	8	6	4
Eagle	3	2	1	10	11	4
Hillsideers	3	2	1	7	7	2
Tavern	3	2	1	7	7	2
Social Club	3	0	3	8	13	0
Bel B	3	0	3	5	9	0
New Inn	3	0	3	4	17	0

Robin Jones Shrewsbury Invitational Domino League

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Telegraph	30	15	6	9	130	106
FCC	30	13	7	134	106	36
Compasses	30	13	7	10	136	104
BVT	30	16	10	4	128	112
HSC	30	13	7	126	114	35
Telepost	30	14	9	7	123	117
Rock & Fountain	30	12	8	10	133	107
POW	30	12	8	10	133	107
Dog & P	30	10	11	11	123	131
Albion	30	11	11	9	116	124
Anchor	30	10	11	10	117	123
Posta	30	10	11	6	114	126
Health Gains	30	10	10	5	110	130
Cross Foxes	30	6	14	10	106	134
Masonic	30	4	13	10	107	133
Brooklands	30	3	12	6	90	150

Oswestry & District Bowling League

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Chirk AAA A	3	2	1	0	43	18
Llanymylyn A	3	2	1	0	16	18
Llangollen A	3	2	1	0	16	18
Warrington B	3	2	1	0	16	18
Flecksy A	3	2	1	0	2	16
Ruabon A	3	2	1	0	52	15
Carraig Valley A	3	2	1	0	52	15
Critfins A	3	2	1	0	27	14
Corwen A	3	2	1	0	55	9
Whittington B	3	2	0	3	77	7
Whittington A	3	2	0	3	41	6

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Church A	3	2	0	1	107	21
Cynydd A	3	2	0	1	107	21
Critfins B	3	2	1	0	75	19
Clas Kyngaston A	3	2	1	0	14	15
Old Croft A	3	2	1	0	43	21
Llanhaeadr A	3	2	0	2	14	15
Llanymylyn A	3	2	1	0	21	14
Ellesmere A	3	2	1	0	49	14
Georgie	3	2	1	0	49	14
Weston Rhyn A	3	2	1	0	51	12
Church B	3	2	1	0	86	8

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Critfins C	3	2	1	0	97	22
Carraig Valley C	3	2	1	0	43	21
Johnstown D	3	2	1	0	73	20
Llangollen B	3	2	1	0	55	19
Church C	3	2	1	0	14	15
Blithfield A	3	2	1	0	43	21
Ellesmere B	3	2	1	0	29	14
Bersham	3	2	1	0	7	13
Johnstown C	3	2	1	0	13	13
For Lane	3	2	1	0	107	9
Chirk AAA B	3	2	1	0	109	8

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Ruabon B	3	3	0	0	63	21
Itton	3	3	0	0	70	19
Whittington B	3	3	0	0	24	18
Llanhaeadr B	3	3	0	0	24	18
Overton B	3	3	0	0	4	17
Weston Rhyn C	3	3	0	0	31	16
Whittington C	3	3	0	0	16	16
Llanymylyn B	3	3	0	0	18	14
Cynydd B	3	3	0	0	22	13
Llanymylyn C	3	3	0	0	33	11
Clas Kyngaston B	3	3	0	0	8	9
Llanhaeadr D	3	3	0	0	73	8

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Penrth Broughton	3	3	0	0	173	26
Critfins E	3	3	0	0	93	22
Whittington C	3	3	0	0	40	22
Weston Rhyn D	3	3	0	0	12	19
Whittington D	3	3	0	0	23	13
Chirk AAA C	3	3	0	0	7	10
Chirk AAA D	3	3	0	0	56	9
Chirk AAA E	3	3	0	0	144	7

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Cynydd C	3	3	0	0	185	25
Ponciau Park A	3	3	0	0	158	19
Llanymylyn B	3	3	0	0	61	18
Whittington D	3	3	0	0	17	15
Overton C	3	3	0	0	1	14
Weston Rhyn D	3	3	0	0	23	13
Chirk AAA D	3	3	0	0	56	9
Chirk AAA E	3	3	0	0	144	7

Division 7 (Vets)

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Llangollen	3	3	0	0	131	19
Llanymylyn A	3	3	0	0	74	15
Weston Rhyn A	3	3	0	0	105	14
Carraig Valley A	3	3	0	0	27	11
Whittington B	3	3	0	0	11	10
Overton A	3	3	0	0	24	9
Chirk AAA B	3	3	0	0	57	8
Cynydd B	3	3	0	0	77	6

Division 8 (Vets)

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Cynydd C	3	3	0	0	135	19
Ponciau Park	3	3	0	0	146	17

Shrewsbury & District Snooker League

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Bersham	3	2	1	0	41	14
Croft	3	2	1	0	43	12
Weston Rhyn B	3	2	1	0	30	11
Whittington A	3	2	0	2	54	9
Llanhaeadr A	3	2	0	2	35	8
Church Club B	3	2	0	2	124	8
Overton B	3	2	0	0	9	5
Llanhaeadr B	3	0	3	0	103	5

Bright Motors Snooker League One Final Table

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Stanton A	26	23	3	95	33	99
Harleford A	26	20	6	91	39	96
Union D	26	19	7	89	41	90
Beaconsfield B	26	15	11	73	57	73
Wern USC A	26	15	11	88	51	71
Meole Brace F	26	13	13	65	71	67
Harleford C	26	14	12	66	64	66
Charlton A	26	14	12	66	64	66
Meole Brace A	26	11	15	64	66	64
Beaconsfield A	26	12	14	62	68	63
Preston Brockhurst	26	18	51	79	51	79
Bagley B	26	7	14	46	44	44
Harleford D	26	6	20	43	87	43
Union B	25	5	21	33	97	33

ABF Carpets Snooker League Two Final Table

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Wern USC C	28	22	6	101	39	101
Union F	28	21	7	99	41	90
Bagley C	28	21	7	97	43	93
Meole Brace D	28	21	7	88	52	90
Old Shrewsbury	28	19	9	84	56	84
Harleford C	28	14	14	78	62	78
Meole Brace E	28	13	15	75	67	63
Union C	28	14	14	66	72	68
Union E	28	11	17	66	74	66
Charlton B	28	13	15	64	64	64
Beaconsfield C	28	15	13	63	77	63
Meole Brace E	28	19	9	56	84	56
Harleford E	28	6	22	47	93	47
Wern USC B	28	7	21	43	83	43
Harleford F	28	2	26	27	113	27

Sky Bet League One

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Sheffield Utd.	46	30	10	8	92	47
Bolton Wanderers	45	25	11	10	68	96
Sheffo Utd.	45	24	10	12	80	54
Fleetwood Town	45	23	10	14	63	82
Bradford City	45	20	19	6	62	43
Sheffo Utd.	45	20	13	12	68	57
Southend Utd.	45	20	12	14	70	52
Oxford Utd.	45	20	17	6	55	62
Reading	45	20	17	6	55	62
Bristol Rovers	45	18	12	16	68	66
Porthsmouth	45	17	11	18	62	62
Mk Dons	45	16	17	10	68	61
Charlton Ath.	45	16	16	13	60	63
Walsall	45	14	16	16	51	58
Wimbleton	45	13	18	15	52	55
Nhampton Town	45	14	11	21	60	73
Kidderminster	45	13	12	20	63	63
S'bury Town	45	13	12	21	46	63
Bury	45	13	12	21	63	70
Gillingham	45	12	13	21	73	50
Port Vale	45	13	21	45	70	69
Swindon Town	45	11	11	24	44	66
Coventry City	45	9	12	25	37	68
Rushden & D.	45	9	10	27	43	78

Nanaroma National

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Lincoln City	46	30	9	7	83	40
Tranmere Rovers	46	29	8	9	79	39
Oldham Athletic	46	29	8	9	79	39
Dagenham & R.	46	26	14	6	79	53
Albion	46	23	10	13	63	72
Albion	46	23	10	13	63	72
Dover Ath.	46	24	7	15	65	63
Grays	46	23	11	14	68	50
Gateshead	46	19	13	14	72	51
M'Field Town	46	20	8	18	64	57
Barnet	46	19	8	20	59	66
Boreham Wood	46	18	14	14	68	53
Bromley	46	15	13	18	61	62
Wrexham	46	15	13	18	61	62
Maesteg	46	15	13	18	61	62
Walsall	46	15	13	18	61	62
Solihull Moors	46	15	10	21	62	75
Torquay Utd.	46	14	11	21	61	53
Johnstown C	46	13	12	22	55	64
Chester	46	14	10	22	63	71
Guiseley	46	13	12	21	50	67
York City	46	11	17	18	55	70
Scrimshaw	46	12	15	17	67	69
Southport	46	10	9	27	52	97
Nth Ferris Utd	46	12	3	31	32	82

Vanarama National North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
FC Fylde	42	26	10	6	109	60	88
Kidderminster	42	25	7	10	76	41	82
FC Halifax Town	42	24	8	10	81	43	80
Salford City	42	22	11	9	79	44	77
Wokingham	42	22	10	10	89	67	76
Truro City	42	20	14	8	60	41	74
Charlton	42	20	13	9	66	43	73
Blackpool	42	20	16	7	59	41	73
Warrington	42	21	6	15	73	67	69
Cloughcaster City	42	18	10	14	69	61	64
Grange Town	42	16	11	15	71	63	59
Doncaster	42	14	13	15	67	69	55
Curzon Utd. Man.	42	14	12	16	69	68	54
St Auston Ashton	42	14	10	18	63	72	52

Griffiths makes his Marc for Llan again

PLAYER boss Marc Griffiths continued his fine scoring form as Llanrhaeadr stayed on course for a top four finish in the Spar Mid Wales League division one with a 3-0 victory over Radnor Valley.

With the games coming thick and fast, Griffiths took his tally to 10 goals from the last four outings with another goal as Llan maintained their late surge.

The damage was done in the first half against Radnor Valley, with the home side netting three times in five minutes.

After home keeper Harry Matthews saved a penalty, Griffiths opened the scoring on 27 minutes.

He then set up Iwan Matthews to double the lead a minute later, and was also involved moments later as Matthews nodded down for Kieran Evans to fire home.

Griffiths had a field day earlier in the week with five goals as Llanrhaeadr thrashed struggling Machynlleth 7-0. Matthews and Alex Goodwin also finding the net.

Llanidloes Town are also looking good for a top five finish after securing a comfortable 3-0 win over faltering Machynlleth in their last outing of the season at Victoria Avenue.

Encouraging

The Daffs have been in consistent form since the turn of the year, and maintained their encouraging run with victory over lowly Mach courtesy of goals from Harri Clarke, Joe Evans and Gareth Owen.

Earlier in the week, Llanidloes Town were held 1-1 at home to Aberaeron, Joe Evans getting their equaliser in the second half.

Newly-crowned champions Rhayader Town secured a 1-0 win at runners-up Carno, a Tom Bethel penalty separating the sides, while Knighton Town overcame Llan-drindod Wells 2-0 to continue their fine end of season form.

MONTGOMERY, lying at the foot of the table and heading for relegation to division two, enjoyed a 3-0 home verdict against fellow strugglers Tywyn Brynrcrug in their penultimate outing.

Elsewhere, Radnorshire Cup winners Llandrindod Wells stormed to a 5-2 home beating of Bow Street in their last action to secure a mid-table finish.

Earlier in the week, Carno sealed runners-up spot in the first division and passed 100 goals for the season with a 3-0 home success against lowly Tywyn Brynrcrug who themselves were sentenced to relegation.

Carno also booked their place in the semi-finals of the Spar League Cup with a comfortable 4-0 passage at Dolgellau.

Dolgellau did though put four past struggling FOUR CROSSES, who ended a tough season second from bottom in division two.

Tired Morda let in five as games take toll

PLAYING three games in seven days took its toll as Morda United slipped to a 5-1 loss at Llanfair reserves in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one.

After taking the lead on 20 minutes through Jamie Evans, a young Morda withstood home pressure before tiring late on as Llanfair ran out comfortable winners.

Morda conceded an equaliser right on half time, but the visitors maintained their resistance on a challenging pitch until the hour mark when they finally tired and Llanfair took charge before going on to hit five and deservedly take all three points.

This result concluded Morda's league programme but they are due to be in action this midweek when they travelled to face Gulsfield in the Montgomeryshire Cup under floodlights.

Meanwhile, a goal by Josh Astley and an own goal after good work by Tom Gregory saw Llanfair youth through to the League Cup final on May 14.

Baker's dozen years with TNS ends

LONG-SERVING defender Phil Baker brought the curtain down on a 12-year career with The New Saints after Sunday's Welsh Cup final defeat to Bala Town.

The 34-year-old, who has not ruled out a switch to another Welsh Premier club, is an ex-Tranmere Rovers player who joined Bangor City before a move to Conference outfit Exeter City.

He went on to play for Aberystwyth and also Droylsden before rejoining the Citizens, where he made 28 appearances in 2004/5 before signing for TNS.

Named in the Welsh Premier dream team for 2006/7 and again in 2014/15, Baker was loaned to

Aberystwyth in March and has made a total of 346 (+124) Welsh Premier appearances, scoring 12 goals.

He is also the current record holder for European appearances, playing a total of 31 games and scoring twice, including a crucial away goal at Cliftonville in 2011 which saw the Saints progress to the second qualifying round.

Meanwhile, the Welsh Premier League has been left without a headline sponsorship partner as online gaming company Dafabet announced it was ending its support after two years.

The WPL, which had been hopeful of extending the Dafabet deal, has not revealed whether a new headline sponsorship deal is likely ahead of the new

season. Meanwhile, TNS manager Craig Harrison says he is flattered that his name has been linked to the vacant manager's job at League Two side Hartlepool United.

Pools are looking for a new boss after parting company with ex-Cardiff City chief Dave Jones following a tough season.

The North East two club slipped to the brink of relegation to the National League following their 1-0 loss at basement rivals Cheltenham Town.

"I've said from day one that I'm a very ambitious person," said Harrison. "I want to manage at the very best level I can. It's nice to be linked to these jobs and whatever will be will be."

Town end six of the worst sequence

Oswestry Town by John Bridgwater

FC Oswestry Town 3 Alfreton LR 1
AFTER a run of six straight losses, FC Oswestry Town ensured they ended their Hallmark North West Counties League division one season on a high with a 3-1 success over Alfreton LR at Park Hall.

It's been a tough spell for Town, with a couple of treks to Cumbria with depleted squads, but they gave themselves something to smile about as they brought the curtain down on their debut season in the league.

They finished 15th in the table, and boss Mike Barton was happy with the last day efforts from his charges.

"The first half was the best we played for a long time, and we had enough chances to be six or seven up," he said.

"We didn't want the season to end with seven straight defeats, so it was a pleasing result against a side who had been going well lately," he added.

The Oswestry hosts made the perfect start when taking the lead after just 67 seconds through Callum Graybrook who fired past keeper Louis Murray from just inside the box after latching onto a Tom Rowlands pass.

Dinked

They increased the advantage on 26 minutes as a long through ball from Jack Harris found Harrison Millington whose cross was met by Rowlands and he fired through the keeper's legs at the far post.

A third goal arrived eight minutes later as Rowlands played a one-two with Millington before releasing the lively Craig Harris who dinked the ball over Murray in goal.

Town were unable to maintain the momentum in the second half as the game petered out a little, but Alex Guest pulled one back for lowly Alfreton on 61 minutes when latching onto a poor clearance from keeper Richard Cowderoy.

Earlier in the week, FC Oswestry had a night to forget as a depleted side suffered a 7-1 drubbing away to Holker Old Boys.

It was their second trek to Cumbria in the



Jack Harris fires in a shot for Oswestry against Alfreton LR

space of five days, and the journey took its toll as the visitors returned home on the back of a hefty defeat.

They made the midweek trip with no substitutes, with coach Ryan Butcher in the starting line up and boss Barton on the bench, while also having to start with 10 players following a delay due to a traffic jam en route.

Town were soon two goals down inside the first 15 minutes, with Michael Rushton getting the first on seven when firing in after James Pattinson had crossed from the right.

Defender Philip Coombe added a glancing header from a corner on 14, before Jack Harris offered some

help with a 34th minute penalty after Sam Ottley was ruled to have been fouled by Coombe.

But Holker took charge with two goals before half-time through Jamie Pattinson and John-Paul Stanway to have the advantage going in to the break.

Pattinson converted after a Jordan Brough shot had been blocked by the legs of keeper Richard Cowderoy, and Stanway fired in from a low crossfield pass.

Stanway notched another on 63 minutes to make it 5-0 with Pattinson the provider with a through ball.

Late goals from Rushton, his second of the game on 87 minutes from a Stanway cross, and substitute Bill Moss on 90, made for a long return home for Town.

Holders' treble chance scuppered by Bala

Bala Town 2 The New Saints 1

HOLDERS The New Saints saw their dominance of the JD Welsh Cup shattered by a late fightback as resilient Bala Town lifted the trophy for a first time in a thrilling final at the Bangor University Stadium.

The Saints were looking to lift the prestigious cup for a fourth year in a row which would have seen them clinch an unprecedented third successive Welsh domestic treble.

But the holders met their match in Bala who, after falling behind to Greg Draper's close range strike on 56 minutes, turned the final round in stirring fashion with two goals in the last 13 minutes.

Substitute Jordan Evans stuck a leveller through a crowded box on 77 minutes before Kieran Smith headed home a Chris Venables cross four minutes from time to spark dramatic scenes.

After a tense finish, the Lakesiders held firm to remarkably record their first ever win over the Saints at the 30th time of asking.

Bala boss Colin Caton was overwhelmed at the final whistle, saying: "We never stop making history at this club, and this is a big win for us. It's an emotional and fantastic day for everyone, and to stop TNS winning the treble treble is good for the league."

The encounter was in the balance throughout, and

Welsh Cup Final

provided an intriguing affair despite not matching the goal fest of the week before when the two sides scored 10 goals between them in the league.

Jamie Mullan had an early angled strike saved low down by Bala keeper Ashley Morris who went on to make some key saves during the game.

The TNS winger was proving an early threat, sending another teasing ball fizzing across the goal-mouth, while Jon Routledge's swerving 25-yard strike was kept out by the legs of Morris.

The Lakesiders had a strong claim for a penalty turned down by Llanrhaeadr referee Huw Jones on 15 minutes after Chris Venables appeared to be shoved in the back by Steve Saunders.

In an open affair, Lee Hunt then forced TNS keeper Paul Harrison to turn his close range shot round the right post after the holders had failed to clear.

But Bala were then indebted to Morris who pulled off a terrific one handed save at full stretch to keep out Draper's glancing header from Mullan's inviting cross as a breathtaking first half came to an end.

Chris Marriott struck the bar for the Saints with a free kick from just outside the box 10 minutes after the break, but the reprieve was short-lived as the

holders took the lead moments later. With the danger not fully cleared, Connell Rawlinson's looping shot from 20 yards was parried by Morris, and Steve Saunders got to the loose ball first before teeing up Draper to slot into an empty net from six yards.

With the game becoming stretched out, Adrian Cieslewicz went close to a second when he launched a dazzling run down the left on 62 minutes before forcing a smart save from Morris with a rising drive.

Mullan's goal bound volley was denied by the foot of Morris after the winger found space from a through ball, but the Lakesiders dug in to turn the final around in dramatic fashion.

Substitute Jordan Evans made an instant impression when his deflected shot from the edge of the box found its way through a crowded goalmouth in the 77th minute.

Morris kept out a strike from Cieslewicz at the other end, but Bala grabbed a famous win four minutes from time when Venables worked space on the right to whip in a terrific cross for an elated Smith to head firmly past Harrison.

It was a tense finish, but TNS were unable find a way back as hopes of an historic third successive treble were dashed on the last day of the season.

Saints' players now take a short break before preparing for their Champions League qualifiers in the summer.

Latest returns from the golf clubs around Shropshire

HENLLLE PARK
April Medal Division 1: Dan Williams 65pts; Michael A Jones 66pts; Daniel Nash 67pts.
Division 2: Ian Harris 67pts; Mark Pritchard 68pts; David Edd 69pts.
David Salter's 9 Hole Comp: Derek Graham 20pts (cb); Mike Welch 20pts; Tony Davies 19pts (cb).
Good Friday Texas Scramble: Gary Owen, John M Evans & Chris Bub Jones 60.4pts; Roger Harris, Mike Jones & Andrew Eaton 61.5pts; Cas Bothwell, Tom Coulson & Jon Humphreys 61.7pts.
Bank Holiday Monday Kellogs Trophy Division 1: Morgan Taylor 41pts; George Hughes 38pts; Andrew Harris 37pts.
Division 2: Ryan Morris 38pts; Geoff Gill 35pts; Nikloas Jurkic 34pts.
Division 3: Jillian Andrews 35pts; Corey Morris 31pts; Brendan O'Grady 29pts.
Ladies: April Medal: Ellie Potts 71pts; Kathy Evans 75pts; Sue Sims 78pts.
Seniors: Individual Medal Division 1: Ken Twist 66pts; Peter Nuttall 70pts; Phil Wilkinson 71pts.
Division 2: Derek Jones 69pts; Mike Cunningham 70pts; Frank Thomas 75pts.
HILL VALLEY
Hill Valley Easter Cup: Josh Barlow 36pts; C Edwards 36pts; K M Jones 35pts.
Ladies: Harry Carr Easter Cup (Emerald): S Wynn 32pts (21); B Sierstema 27pts (28); G Thomas 27pts (19).
Easter Stableford (Sapphire): G Thomas 31pts (19); S DeBarro 26pts (25); S Lockett 24pts (22).
LILLESHELL HALL
April Midweek Medal Division 1: A Sutton 73-10-63; P Hoof 69-2-67; M Dunn 81-13-68.
Division 2: P Steventon 86-19-67; M Homer 83-14-69; P Reynolds 84-15 -69.
April Midweek Medal Yellow Tees Division 1: J Tranter 75-10-65; A Sutton 77-9-68; A Hickman 81-13-68.
Division 2: S Wlazlo 86-23-63; D Thomas 90-23-67; N Collins 82-14- 68.
April Stableford Division 1: O Reynolds 37; M Ross 35; R Hendy 35.
Division 2: A Smith 37; K Gill 35; P Reynolds 34.
Ladies: Pelham Combined: M Jones 70; V Simpson 71; A MacPhee 71; K Gillum 72; J Cole 73; J Cann 74.
LLANYMYNECH
Ladies: Chase The Rabbit Winner: Val Jones.
Past/Present Captains Trophy Greensome Medal: Carol Grivell and Pam Seavant 91-25-88; Lesley Cookson and Ann Evans 89-20-69 (best back 9); Sue Kime and Julie Gibson 99-30-69
MARKET DRAYTON
Mens Harry Lane Trophy: Paul Quartermaine (11) 41; Giulio Laise (12) 41; Robert Francis (18) 40.
Ladies: Basford Bowl Round 1: Ally Addison (29) 78; Hilary Taylor (10) 79; Annette Watkins (20) 80.
April Stableford 2: Patsy Thompson (18) 29pts; Fay Ives (28) 29pts; Jan Harris (27) 26pts.
April 9 Hole Comp 3: Mary Lewis 25pts.
England Golf Trust Stableford 2: Jane Sigan (17) 36pts; Fay Ives (28) 34pts; Hilary Taylor (10) 30pts.
April 9 Hole Comp 4: Ann Loader 32pts.
Mens and Ladies: Good Friday Stableford Competition: Rhys Collins (9) 36; Laurence Sidwell (15) 36; Alan Lewis (10) 34.
Easter Stableford Competition: Thomas Hawkins 34 (Sat), 36 (Sun), Total 70; Tim Dainty 35, 32, 67; John Gillespie 32, 34, 66.
Seniors: Spring Open: Four ball betterball: Dave Furnival (12) & Alan Percival (8) 42; David Finnemore (22) & K Ferneyhough (16) 41; Degby Birch (8) & Michael Handley (12) 41.
Golfers of the Year: Keith Parsons (16) 37; Jeremy Winkley (18) 36; Paul Whittaker (13) 36.
MILE END
Bank Holiday Social: Janet Bennett, Angela Eke, Neil Exton 63pts; Gary Turner, Mike Tisdale, Amanda Ord 84pts; Di Bradbury, Tony Cartwright, Roy Adkins 77pts.
Mens: Fourosome Winners: Derek Birch, Mick Pierce 75-11, 0-68.0.
Runners Up: James Thornell, Colin Anyes 79-9-68.5.
Third Place: Scott Smith, Kevin Jones 91-16.5-74.5.
Wednesday Social: Richard Osbourne, Doug Stanyer, John Northwood.
Des Pugh Trophy: Robbie Grocott 43pts; Ben Moody 42pts; Di Bradbury 37pts.
Nearest The Pin: Richard Meyer 4ft 1".
Sunday Social Winners: Dave Smith, Kieran Davies, Joe Wildblood, Barry Lingard 43pts.
Runners Up: Brian Davies, Moya Holmes, Mike Pearson 42pts.
OSWESTRY
Army Competition: Paul Pardoe 43; Joe Poole 40; John Delaney 39 (cb); Nigel Suckley 39; Anthony Hewitt 38 (cb); Peter Windham 38 (cb).
Easter Stableford: Thomas Taylor & Daniel Haycocks 45pts (cb); Phil Wolstenholme & Ben Westcott 45pts (cb); Paul Taylor & Jack Taylor 45pts; Wayne Peter & David Richards 44pts (cb); David Scofield & Richard Cowley 44pts (cb); Gordon Evans & Frank Mottram 44pts.
Mist: Easter Stableford (9 entries): Steve Eardman & Helen Cawley 44pts; Kenton Cawley & Helen Cawley 43pts (cb).
Informal Greensomes (15 Holes): Eric Cluth & Margaret Shakeshaft 43pts; Jim Stirling & Jane Jones 32pts (cb); Kieran Jones & Sarah Weaver 32pts; Dudley Miller & Pam Murrin 31pts; Bryan Pugh & Jo Davies 30pts.
Ladies Easter Stableford: Emma Hopton & Jane Jones 38pts (cb).
Club Championship Knockout Shield & EG Medal: Victoria Bradbeer 76-5-71; Gemma Thornell 77 Gross; Tania Pearce 81 Gross; Victoria Rattle.
Rachel Wigley 91 Gross (cb); Di Hal 91 Gross (cb); Judith Thornell 94 Gross; Mary Alford 95 Gross.
Silver Division: Victoria Bradbeer 76-5-71; Rachel Wigley 91-19-72.
Bronze Division: Margaret Green 95-23-72; Janet Shaw 95-23-76.
Upper Bronze Division: Gwyneth Baines Jones 113-34-79; Judy Foster 116-35-81.
THE BROW
Brett & Collins Bowl: Terry Brough & Graham Peterson 78-18.8-82; Mike Clark & John Williams 79-13.4-85.6.
WREKIN
Smithies/Richards Pairs Plate (15 Hole Stableford) Pairs Betterball: Mike Smith & Dave Kibbi 46; Dave Pegg & Alan Luncan 34; Maurice Lamb & Roger Hogben 34.

Glas debutant Davies takes magnificent seven scalps

A TERRIFIC seven wicket burst from debutant Gary Davies propelled Cae Glas to a 76-run victory over Calverhall in their opening Henshalls Shropshire League division three action at Gatacre.

The Glas made 162 before skittling their visitors for just 86 to pocket a maximum 24 points.

Davies took centre stage with 7-16 and hit 29 with the bat.

They recovered after losing both openers cheaply after losing the toss, with skipper George Candler and Gareth Edgerton both making 18 and Tim Morris top scoring with 32. There were three wickets for Luke Parton and Olly Griffiths.

The Glas were soon among the wickets in reply following a positive start before Andy Green's 48 steadied the ship for Calverhall.

Up stepped Davies to rout the innings with his seven wicket haul in nine overs, six of them bowled.

It was also a good day for CAE GLAS II who notched a six wicket win away to ELLESMERE II in the 2nd XI League division three to pocket 20 points.

John Clarke was chief destroyer with 7-25 as the Meresiders were sent back for 137 in 34.4 overs after being put in. Aaron Clegg (63) provided most resistance.

Opener Peter Bowyer was unbeaten on as the Glas reached their target in 37.5 overs.

While their first team held on for a gritty losing draw to Whitchurch in the premier division, FRANKTON II pulled off a three wicket win at their North Shropshire counterparts in the 2nd XI division one to claim 20 points.

Frankton dismissed Whitchurch for 131 in 38.3 overs. Dave Powell set up the win with 53.

Ifton bowlers back on the winning trail

AFTER three successive defeats, Ifton got back to winning ways in the Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowls League with a 9-5 home verdict against Wem U.S.C.

Victory by 36 shots (238-202) lifted the St Martins side back up to eighth in the table, and they will now look to keep up the momentum away to bottom Hammer who were downed 8-5 (215-206) to Meole Brace last week.

Simon Tyler was Ifton's best of the night by winning to nine, while Carl Roberts and Leighton Roberts both had 21-11 cards.

Craig Griffiths weighed in with a 21-13, while Nicky Jones reeled off his fifth successive win, prevailing 21-16 against Chris Brettell.

Brian Hayes (21-18) and Keirion Roberts (21-19) were the other winners.

Darren Lacey suffered his first loss of the season, edged out 20-21 against George Williams. It was a similar score as Geraint Williams went down to Mike Fielder.

Fyllin great after defeat of Waterloo

LLANFYLLIN Town pulled off a 3-1 win over newly-crowned JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one champions Waterloo Rovers.

Goals from Khyam Wyton, Steven Morris and Matty Evans put paid to Rovers who lifted the title a few days before with a 3-1 home victory over Caersws reserves.

Elsewhere, Sam Roberts bagged a brace as LLANYMYNECH swept aside Carno 6-0. BERRIEW reserves ended with a 3-3 draw against GUILDSFIELD with their replies coming through Sam Davies, Rhidian Morris and an own goal.

Llanfair United Ladies were edged out 2-1 by Aberystwyth Ladies in the final of the Central Wales Womens Cup at Llanidloes Town, Gemma Jones getting the Llanfair goal.

Wales international is COBRA guest

FORMER Wales rugby star Tom Shanklin will be making an appearance at COBRA's junior rugby festival on Sunday.

The day, which also includes teams from Welshpool, gets under way at 11am, with ex-Cardiff Blues centre Shanklin set to visit the Meifod club from 1-5pm. The 37-year-old made 70 appearances for the Welsh team.

Meanwhile, the club's second team will be hoping for some end of season silverware on Saturday, May 27 when they take on local rivals Welshpool in the

final of the Mid Wales Plate at Llanidloes (1pm). The Meifod team booked their place in the final after overcoming Llandrindod Wells 28-12 in their last four clash.

They were 11-0 up at half-time with a try from centre Matt Jones, and two Will Worthington penalties. Jones scored a second touchdown after the break with prop Bryn Edwards also going over, with Rhodri Davies chipping in with a conversion.

A week before the final, May 20, COBRA hold their annual dinner and presentation night at the

Wynnstay Hotel. The club's youth team maintained their resurgence in the North Wales Youth Division Two by winning a double header 31-12 at Rhyl. However, Powys rivals Welshpool, lying second bottom, went down 40-7 at home to Dolgellau.

A major restructuring of North Wales rugby – to include a second team league – has been given the go-ahead by its member clubs.

The proposals, put forward by the Welsh Rugby Union at a meeting at Ruthin, were accepted with a large majority.

Beacon make light work of newcomers

Cricket by John Bridgwater

NEWCOMERS Montgomery suffered a losing start to life in division one of the Henshalls Shropshire Cricket League after being well beaten by eight wickets at home to Beacon.

Batting first after losing to toss, they soon found themselves a wicket down before Aaron Ruff-Cock threatened a revival before being dismissed for a breezy 35, while James Corfield weighed in with 49 in the middle order.

But the rest of the batting struggled as Monty were eventually sent back for 163 in their 42 overs, David Howarth picking up 3-33.

Beacon made light of the target as the Shrewsbury side sealed victory in 34 overs, with opener Nick Bevan cracking 63 and Jakob Woodhouse an unbeaten 46, leaving Monty with just four points from their opening fixture.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY made an encouraging start in division one after getting the better of a drawn encounter with Condover at the Nursery Ground.

Stumped

Put in to bat, they amassed a challenging 237-8 from their 45 overs, thanks to a solid opening stand of 90 from skipper Steven Gray and Luke Beckett.

Gray was first to go when caught for 37, but Beckett had taken the score past the 200-mark when fourth out for 88, including 12 fours, after being stumped.

Lawrence Hitchen kept up the momentum with 34 while 43 extras also helped boost the total. Matthew Farr was the most successful of the bowlers with 3-54.

After losing both openers cheaply, Condover recovered with Charlie Rogers top scoring on 65, but rarely threatened the total after that as they finished well short on 168-7 in their 45 overs.

With the wickets shared, Dan Jones was the most successful of the bowlers with 2-27 as Knockin finished with 16 points, to the nine gained by their visitors.

Knockin & Kinnerley's second string had a high scoring losing draw at their St Georges counterparts in the 2nd XI division one.

St Georges racked up an impressive 281-6 in their 45 overs, with Emrys Hughes (78) one of three players to hit 50s, while Paul Holyoake took a five-for.

Knockin fared creditably in reply thanks to some late resistance that saw Holyoake and Richard Williams both make 28 as the visitors finished on 214-8 to return with 10 points.

FRANKTON stood firm to secure a losing daw in their opening action of the Shropshire League pre-

Hotshots fire their way to glory



The Montgomeryshire team. Inset: individual winner Richard Lewis

THE Montgomeryshire & District Airgun League fired their way to glory at the Aberdare Airgun league's open shoot.

With competition from several other airgun leagues from across South Wales and parts of Southern England the 17-strong team, captained by Alan Baker, came back to Mid Wales triumphant having shot their way to a clean sweep in all categories.

They were shooting at a distance of seven yards, (6.4metres) on a bell target, firing 10 shots with a maximum score of 100.

The overall individual title was won by Richard Lewis (96) with the silver going to Paul Gwilliam (94) after a shoot-off, and the bronze to Tabitha Corbett (94).

The Individual ladies was won by Tabitha Corbett (94) ahead of Sue Brown (91) and the bronze to Jane Thomas (91). Sportingly, Thomas was unable to contest the shoot off so conceded second place to Brown. The Individual Junior

Title went to Tabitha Corbett (94), silver went to Joe Hilditch (90) and the Individual Seniors Title went to Alan Baker (93). The Group 'B' Individual was won by Sue Brown (91).

The team of six shooters title was won by Montgomeryshire with a combined score of 557. In the teams of fours, gold went to Monty 'A' (373) silver went to Monty 'B' (365) and bronze to Monty Ladies (361) also fourth went to Monty thirds with (351).

mier division against big guns Whitchurch at Harwick Park. Whitchurch, who have dropped down from the Birmingham League this season, are fancied to be the team to beat this term as they chase a swift return.

They showed their credentials by rattling up 289-5 in 50 overs, with Ijaz Yousaf smashing 103 with two sixes and 12 fours, and Vansh Bajaj launching three sixes in his unbeaten 81.

Opener Ed Watson-Jones also weighed in with

56, while Stuart Lammie and Thomas Wilkie both picked up two wickets.

In reply, Frankton showed plenty of resolve to close on 203-6, with thomas Wilkie to scoring on 66. Jordan Parry made a creditable 22.

Frankton collected eight points, while their North Shropshire visitors returned with 16.

Former Oswestry paceman Daniel Bowen snapped up three wickets for 35 runs on his Whitchurch return.

Chirk in the armour for Llanymynech

Bowls by John Bridgwater

Both CHURCH A and Weston Rhyn A have dropped down to the second division and the former moved joint top with a comfortable 9-1 success, 163-81 on aggregate.

Victory kept the Oswestry side top on shots aggregate from second placed Cynwyd A who were 7-3 (155-130) victors away to WHITTINGTON B.

CRIFTINGS B, Dudleston Heath, brushed aside GEORGE 9-1 (152-82), and are third in the table, and two points behind the leaders.

It has not been such a good start for CHURCH B who suffered their second hefty loss of the campaign when succumbing 9-1 (163-112) away to Plas Kynaston A. They are rooted to the foot of the table after three games.

LLANRHAeadR A were edged out 6-4 (11 shots) at YE OLDE CROFTE A.

CRIFTINGS B are setting the pace in division three after their 8-2 (147-118) home verdict against Chirk B. ELLESMERE B were made to work hard before overcoming Black Lion 6-4, taking the aggregate by 17 shots (137-120).

IFTON suffered their first loss in division four when downed 6-4 (142-134) at home to new leaders Ruabon B, despite Curtis Metcalfe and Gareth Williams both winning to 14.

LLANYMYNECH B are going well among the leading pack as they continued their momentum by outgunning Cynwyd B 8-2 (161-135).

Doreen Barnes (21-9) led the way for LLANRHAeadR B who moved up to fourth in division five with a fine 8-2 (nine shots) success at Chirk C.

WHITTINGTON C are one position above in third place after putting paid to Ye Olde Crofte B 7-3 (143-127).

Results: Division Three: Ceiriog Valley B 6 (148) Johnstown D 4 (143), Llangollen B 7 (148) Fox Lane 3 (125), Johnstown C 6 (148) Ceiriog Valley C 4 (143), Ellesmere B 6 (137) Black Lion 4 (120), Church C 7 (131) Bersham 3 (109), Criftings C 8 (147) Chirk B 2 (118).

Division Four: Llanfyllin A 7 (151) Overton B 3 (109), Llanrhaeadr C 8 (147) Plas Kynaston 2 (119), Whittington E 6 (137) Llangnog C 4 (133), Llanymynech B 8 (161) Cynwyd B 2 (135), Ifton 4 (134) Ruabon B 6 (142), Weston Rhyn C 7 (163) Llanrhaeadr D 3 (128).

Division Five: Criftings D 3 (111) Pentre Broughton 7 (154), Chirk C 2 (141) Llanrhaeadr B 8 (150), Corwen B 3 (108) Griffiths E 7 (146), Weston Rhyn B 7 (145) Llanymynech C 3 (136), Johnstown E 6 (150) Church D 4 (124), Whittington C 7 (143), Ye Olde Crofte B 3 (127).

Division Six: Ponciau Park A 9 (165) Llangnog B 1 (98), Overton C 5 (129) Weston Rhyn D 6 (130), Llanfyllin B 7 (146) Ponciau Park B 3 (118), Cynwyd C 7 (143) Whittington D 3 (119), Church E 5 (133) Chirk D 5 (128).

Pedal power as Williams rides into record books

CYCLIST Josh Williams rode into the history books in round three of the Friction Hydraulics Series.

The Team Bottrill rider smashed the county's 25-mile record in the Mid Shropshire Wheelers 25 and became the first rider to beat 50 minutes on Shropshire roads.

Williams flew around the Prees-Tern Hill-Hodnet course in 49 minutes 37 seconds – at over 30mph – to beat Dave Crawley's 2014 mark of 50:18.

Nineteen-year-old team-mate George Evans took the overall runners-up spot in 52:01.

Among the riders competing in the County Championship, Bryn Davies took his first ever Friction Series win with a fine effort of 54:51. The Hafren CC rider lifted himself to the top of the Veterans' Championship with a +11:48, 2:01, ahead of reigning champion Jenny York.

The rider in top place overall, Victor Chetta, was not as happy despite posting 55:26. He still boasts a 45-point lead over Davies but said: "It was a disappointing performance, I felt wrong from the start and discovered that my seat post had slipped down, costing me 10 per cent of my power output."

Many riders never get to break the hour over 25 miles but Matt Gibbons did so at the first attempt, in 56:39 for third county spot, leading Nova Raiders to the head of the Top Club standings.

Fellow Nova Raider, 19-year-old Charlotte Chapman caused a huge surprise by beating Ladies' Series leader Pauline Hughes by two seconds in 1:04:59. In the Junior Series, Revolutions Racing's Sam Morris has a maximum 180 points. He finished 12th overall in 1:01:17.

Duncan takes four in win for Ellesmere

ELLESMERE opened with a five-wicket victory away to Prees in their first action of their Henshalls Shropshire League second division campaign.

They took charge after putting their hosts in, George Duncan taking 4-16 off seven overs as Prees were dismissed for 90 inside 29 overs. Chris Ruscoe provided some late resistance with 30, while Fraser Duncan and Lee Thomas took two wickets.

Ellesmere lost an early wicket in reply, before skipper Jonathan Mitchell (24) and Felix Ashley (31) put them on course for victory and 20 points.

GUILDSFIELD crashed to a 10-wicket defeat at Overton as they made a poor start to the Shropshire League division four season.

Asked to bat first, they were shot out for just 53. Scott and Rob Lawrenson did the damage with four wickets apiece.

Overton had no problems knocking off the runs, in just 6.5 overs.

Champions end season with victory

HAY St Marys reserves ended their championship winning season in the Watson Financial Mid Wales League (South) with a 3-2 victory at Knighton Town reserves.

Darren Horrigan, Kyle Harding and Rob McNamara put the Saints three up before Knighton rallied with Elian Owen netting twice.

Elsewhere, Ryan Sims bagged the goal as Llandrindod Wells reserves pipped Penybont reserves 1-0.

Penybont had won 3-2 at Knighton Town reserves earlier in the week thanks to Jake Bufton (2) and Rory Brown while Rhayader Town reserves warmed up for the League Cup Final with a 1-1 draw against local rivals St Harmon. James Price for St Harmon and Jordan McFadden with the leveller.



Clarke looks to build on opening win

OSWESTRY'S cricketers will look to build on their flying start to the Birmingham League division two when they welcome Harborne on Saturday (noon).

The Morda Road men gave themselves an early boost with a thumping 84-run win away to Staffordshire outfit C&R Hawks on the opening day of the new campaign.

What made the display more impressive was that they were without their two new opening bowlers – Pakistani paceman Sadaf Hussain and Glamorgan teenage prospect Roman Walker.

Both signed in the winter, and will enhance Oswestry's challenge this season as they bid to push for promotion back to the first division.

Hussain could make his debut this weekend if he gains his visa from the British Embassy in Pakistan, but the Morda Road men have already shown their worth without their overseas ace who has taken 311 First Class wickets at an average of 18.18.

"We're looking forward to Sadaf joining us," said Oswestry's skipper Robbie Clarke.

Confidence

"He's 6ft 5ins, his pace is sharp for this league and he has a great record."

Clarke added: "We hope he's going to be here, but if not, we can take a lot of confidence from our performance against C&R Hawks in which we were without our two opening bowlers."

Clarke said last week's win gave his side an ideal start to the season, but they were looking to improve.

"It was the perfect start, but we now need to build on that," he said. "Teams have to travel a long way to come here, so we need to make Morda Road a fortress, something we haven't done in the last couple of seasons."

Warrick Fynn led the way last weekend, hammering 107 as Oswestry racked up 263-7, before taking three wickets as hosts C&R Hawks were bowled out for 179. Opener Joe Carrasco, who featured in a 160-run first wicket stand with Fynn, is unavailable, so it is hoped Alun Morris may feature.

Harborne will arrive at Morda Road in good heart themselves after also starting the season with a high-scoring win against Old Elizabethans.

Llanrhaeadr and Berriew up for cup

CUP action takes centre stage with both Llanrhaeadr and Berriew facing some crunch encounters as they chase some silverware.

Llanrhaeadr, who met Carno in the quarter-final of the Montgomeryshire Challenge Cup this week, face a big semi-final with Rhayader Town in the Spar Mid Wales League Cup at Berriew next Tuesday.

Berriew continue their quest when they take on Carno in the semi final of the Spar Mid Wales League Cup at Montgomery Town on Saturday (2.30).

Meanwhile, Llanrhaeadr's hopes of finishing fourth in the league hang in the balance after their 1-0 defeat at Knighton Town.

Pool look to build on positive opening

WELSHPOOL will want to continue their positive start to the Henshalls Shropshire Cricket League division one when they head to Condover on Saturday.

Newly promoted to the first division this season along with Powys neighbours Montgomery, Pool opened with a seven wicket victory over Porton at Maesydre to collect 21 points last weekend.

Electing to field first, they dismissed their visitors for 136 in 43.4 overs, with skipper Tom Anderson taking 5-40 in 11.4 overs, including the scalp of opener Will Poulteney who top scored with 58. Despite an early wobble in reply in which

Cricket

three wickets went down, Welshpool recovered to avoid any further alarms to get home inside 27 overs.

Paul Chapman made 43 not out at the top of the order, and Anderson completed a fine display with an unbeaten 51.

It was not such a good day for MONTGOMERY, who suffered an eight wicket loss to Beacon in their first action of the season.

They will be hoping to bounce back on Saturday, but face a tricky trip to Shetlon. Meanwhile,

ELLESMERE, who notched a five wicket win over Prees on the opening day in division two, aim to keep up the early momentum at home to Church Stretton.

CAE GLAS head to Trysull and Seisdon in division three looking to build on their 76-run victory over Calverhall in which debutant Gary Davies took seven wickets,

Dropping down a division this season, it was just the start that the Glas would have wanted as they made 162 before skittling their visitors for just 86 to pocket 24 points.

Match reports on Page 39.

Boss Barton expects raft of changes

MANAGER Mike Barton anticipates plenty of changes during the summer as FC Oswestry Town shape up for a second season in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one.

After six straight defeats, Town gave themselves some cheer in their last outing with a 3-1 home win against Alfreton LR thanks to first half goals from Callum Graybrook, Tom Rowlands and Craig Harris.

"It was important the players did themselves justice as we didn't want to be going into the summer on the back of seven straight defeats," said Barton.

"The first half was the best we played for along time, and we could have been seven up at half-time, which is no exaggeration.

"But there will be ins and outs in the summer. We need to strengthen the defence which has been a problem this season, and also need to get someone up front as we have to be more clinical.

"Ryan Butcher is also stepping down as assistant, so there will be a change there as well."

Llanfair waiting to learn of fate

LLANFAIR United continue to play a waiting game to discover whether they will be relegated from the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance.

The Mount Field side will drop back down to the Spar Mid Wales League division one should four teams be relegated this season.

Rhayader Town and Queens Park have confirmed they will be stepping up from their respective leagues, and if a side is promoted from the Welsh Alliance, then Llanfair's relegation fate will be sealed.

"It's a pain waiting as we want to start preparing for whatever league we're going to be playing in next season," said manager Rhys Stephens. "If four go down, then so be it, but we want to know as soon as possible where we stand."

Entries open for triathlon contest

ENTIRES are invited for a triathlon at Oswestry School on Sunday, May 14 (9.30am).

There are different categories for the event with the distances for swimming, cycling and running changed accordingly.

The cost to enter is £5 for adults while it's free for children.

For an entry form, visit https://docs.google.com/a/shropshirestar.co.uk/forms/d/1wKtc0jiXMPB8P3WhuoD-JcUjK1b29fZB5uJPdNRh1WQ/view-form?edit_requested=true

Adele a record breaker

ADELE Nicoll was in record breaking form at the British University Games to underline her credentials.

The Welshpool shot putter threw a championship record 16.25m for her first B qualifying standard of the year.

STEEP TASK FOR RACHEL RIVALS

By John Bridgwater

WORLD champion Rachel Atherton overcame "intense pressure" to stretch her record winning run to 14 with victory in the opening round of the 2017 UCI Downhill Mountain Bike World Cup in France.

The high-riding Llanrhaeadr ace set a time of three minutes 21.43 seconds in Lourdes to continue an unbeaten streak in the elite competition going back to 2015.

Fellow Britons Tahnee Seagrave and Manon Carpenter, of Wales, were third and fifth respectively.

Former Marches School pupil Atherton, riding for Trek Factory Racing GT, said: "I cannot believe it. The track was so rough. Tahnee has been training so hard this winter and beat me in qualifying fair and square.

"I just thought 'this is it' and I've just got to out and do what I normally do.

Pressure

"I don't know how much longer I can do this," the 29-year-old added. "The pressure is mounting, but at the end of the day I love racing."

For the third time in three years, Lourdes hosted the World Cup finals. After clocking 3.21.43, Atherton had to wait to see how Seagrave, the last rider out, fared, but the fastest qualifier could only manage third place, 2.73 seconds behind the winner in 3.24.16. Tracy Hannah, of Polygon UR, was second on 3.24.00, some 2.58 seconds adrift.

Atherton became the first rider to complete an unbeaten year when winning all seven rounds of the UCI Downhill Mountain Bike World Cup last season, and claimed the world title for a fourth time. She was named Laureus World Action Sportsperson of the Year award in Monaco and was also short-listed for the BT Sport Action Woman Awards.

Atherton's brother Gee came 10th in the mens race in Lourdes in 2.57.48.



Rachel Atherton celebrates at the opening round of the UCI Downhill Mountain Bike World Cup

History as Bala down TNS in final

THE New Saints failed in their bid to secure a record-breaking third successive domestic treble after suffering JD Welsh Cup heartbreak at the hands of Bala Town.

Leading 1-0 on 56 minutes through Greg Draper, the holders looked to be on course to lift the trophy for a fourth season in a row.

But Bala rallied with late goals from sub Jordan Evans and Kieran Smith earning a dramatic 2-1 Welsh Cup triumph in the final at the Bangor University Stadium – their first win over the Saints in 30 attempts.

It was a rare setback for the Welsh Premier champions after a period of unrivalled success

that has seen them land a succession of silverware. Despite the end of season defeat, TNS chief operating officer Ian Williams was philosophical.

"In the end, it was not to be our day, but all credit to Bala," he said.

Manager Craig Harrison was magnanimous in defeat as his side now head for a short break before returning to prepare for the Champions League qualifiers in the summer.

For Bala boss Colin Caton, it was day to savour as his side ended their TNS jinx to lift the Welsh Cup for the first time. "This was a massive win for a club like ours," he said.

Match report on page 38.

Membership available now

For more details please contact the secretary John Evans (Secretary)

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Published by the Oswestry Chronicle and printed by Shropshire Newspapers Limited, Ketley, Telford. Registered at the P.O. as a newspaper. Price when sold 70p

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